Southall, I.15pm, Friday 19 September 1997. It's happened again.



Chaos and carnage: The crash scene in west London yesterday, which left six dead and 13 seriously injured after a packed passenger train from Swansea and a freight train collided

Six people died, 13 were seriously injured and a further 150 were described as "walking wounded" yesterday after one of Britain's worst rail crashes. Steve Boggan, Kathy Marks, Randeep Ramesh and Christian Wolmar describe the tragic scene and examine the reasons for the collision

Survivors of the Southall crash described scenes of "carnage" last night as a public inquiry was promised into the cause of an accident that should have been impossible.

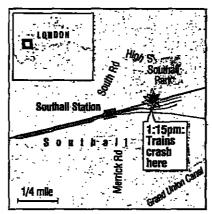
Passengers on the 10.32am Great Westem Swansca-Paddington service had to dodge live electricity cables and climb over bodies. But Railtrack bosses confirmed that a "fail-safe" system was on trial on that stretch of track. They would not say, however, whether it was switched on.

The accident happened at 1.15pm a quarter of a mile east of Southall station in west London. The passenger train clipped the eighth of the goods train's 20 wagons, derailing at least four packed carriages and crushing many of those inside.

Trials had been under way of the Automatic Train Protection system, recommended in the official report into the Clapham rail disaster in 1988, in which 35 people died. The system is supposed to make it impossible for a driver to ignore a signal set at danger, prompting speculation that the system was not in operation.

Last night the Prime Minister and the Queen sent messages of condolence, while the Health and Safety Executive took the unusual step of announcing a full public inquiry to run parallel with the Railways Inspectorate's own.

Some of those on board were journalists returning from the vote on Welsh devolution. One, BBC researcher Nick Sutton, said: "As I walked off the train, I saw a body lying by the side of the tracks. No one was touching it. His shirt was ripped and there was blood all over him ... Everyone was shocked. There was a real-



ly strong smell. I don't know if it was the brakes or if it was from hitting a goods train. It was nerve-racking, especially seeing

Unconfirmed reports said the train braked hard at between 60mph and 90mph after passing through a green light as the goods train was crossing at an acute angle on to another section of track. The Swansea train had eight coaches - two first-

class at the front, followed by a buffet car and into the actions of railway staff imand standard-class carriages to the rear.

Both drivers escaped without injury; 16 passengers remained trapped for two hours. Last night 13 people were described as seriously injured but only a few others remained in hospital. Nevertheless, the death-toll made it the worst rail crash since Clapham. Michael Rudolph, medical director of Ealing Hospital, where many injured were taken, said: "The scene has been described to me as looking like a major aircraft disaster - carnage.

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, promised a full inquiry. Questions will centre on the most likely causes: driver error. faulty signais or train derailment. Mr Prescott visited the scene. "It's terrible. Horrific," he said. The Health and Safety Executive inquiry was being made public, in line with Labour's policy of more openness.

David Eves, the executive's deputy director-general, said: "Our investigation into this collision began immediately. Railway inspectors are making detailed inquiries into the technical causes of the accident

mediately prior to the collision. Our investigation is complex and detailed and will continue until we have found the reason for the accident."

Andy Hancock, acting director of Railtrack's south-western region, said the goods train was travelling on a relief line towards Southall yard. The collision took place on a set of points, at Southall East Junction, as the goods train crossed the track to enter the yard. "It's far too early to speculate on what caused the accident."

The London Ambulance Service sent 15 ambulances and 15 other transporters to the scene. Injured people were taken to Ealing Hospital, Central Middlesex Hospital. West Middlesex Hospital and Hilling-

One woman suffered spinal injuries and a fractured hip, and a man received arm, leg and spinal injuries. Another man with head and chest injuries was taken by air ambulance to the Royal London Hospital,

Tony Mair, one of the first people to ar-

rive at the scene, said: "We saw sparks and then there was a very loud bang and a ball of smoke. It was like very loud fireworks. I was there in under a minute. The train

was lying on its side and people were wan-

dering outside, with blood pouring from

"Two police officers were trying to warn us about [the possibility of] fallen power lines, but we were just worried about getting to help the people. There was nothing we could do to help people in the second and third carriages. My first impression was there were four bodies on the

Scotland Yard issued an emergency number for relatives last night - they should call: 0171-834-7777.

Further reports and pictures, page 3



THE NEW **PAPER**

This has been a vital and exhilarating week for The Independent. We have been delighted by the letters flooding in with praise for our new look and by the excited reaction in the market. Sales this week jumped by about 30 per cent and we attracted - at a conservative estimate - 70,000 new buyers. Many who have been with other papers have already told us they now intend to switch to the new Independent. Today, as for the past few days, we have of course been selling at a trial price of 20p. We are an ordinary commercial company, though. We are not able, and do not want, to engage in unfair pricing: we have no sugardaddies pulling our strings. So from Monday we sell at the normal broadsheet price of 45p and we think you will find next week's Independent excellent value for money. So to new readers - welcome. And to old readers - thank you for sticking with us through the difficult times.

TODAY'S NEWS

The muted Welsh 'Yes'

Both sides in the Welsh devolution refendum had something to celebrate yesterday. The 'Yes' campaigners were trumpeting the victory that means legislation to set up an assembly in Cardiff will now go ahead. But the 'No' campaign, led by the Conservative leader William Hague and Labour dissidents, was able to point to the low turnout and the tiny majority as proof that Wales is far less enthusiastic about devolution than Scotland. They will use the poll's result as ammunition in the coming parliamentary session.

Exclusive - the Spanish plot

The former Prime Ministe,r John Major, and his friend, the former Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, have been closeted this week at the remote Spanish villa of Tristan Garel-Jones, once a Foreign Office minister and one of the Tory party's most famous plotters. At Westminster, MPs suspect that they are hatching a scheme to return Mr Patten to British politics so that he can challenge for the Conservative leadership. Or is it, as the jovial trio claim, simply a happy holiday? Anthony Bevins, our political editor, asked them what was going on. Page 5

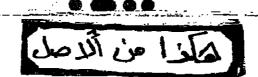
IN TODAY'S FIVE-SECTION PAPER

ISM/our YOUR MONEY great new culture magazine TIME **OFF/24** pages of sport, travel & leisure

YOUR MONEY/ 12 pages of personal finance, property & cars THE EYE/your weekly

entertainment guide





2/BRIEFING

X INDEX

5/WALES

There's something for everyone in the Welsh devolution referendum. It wasn't terminal for the Conservatives; yet Tony Blair and Labour can claim a significant success.

7/CHARITY

The American media billionaire, Ted Turner (below), has decided to give one billion dollars to the United Nations. Mr Turner has dared his fellow plutocrats to follow suit, and show that they care more about the world than their bank balances.



9/CHINA

President Jiang Zemin triumphed overwhelmingly at the Communist Party Congress.

But economic reform is increasingly dividing his country into three separate nations, as the coastal areas become super-rich while the agricultural west and the industrial centre stagnate.



11/BALKANS

Six months ago, it seemed that massive demonstrations had sealed his fate. Slobodan Milosevic, the arch-manipulator of Serbia, has succeeded in dividing the opposition ahead of elections in the country this week-

13/DIPLOMACY

The Foreign Office opened its doors to outsiders, holding an open day as part of an effort to show it is no longer the stuffy, conventional place that it once was.

14,15/STYLE

Hussein Chalayan is one of our hottest designer exports. Yet at the eleventh hour, he was left without a sponsor to fund his show at London Fashion

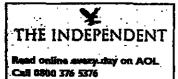


18/ARTS AND MEDIA

Dennis Marks, the Director of English National Opera, has shocked the music world by resigning.

TOURIST RATES

annual and the first manage is single-			
Australia (dollars)	2.16	Italy (lira)	2,723.00
Austria (schillings)	19.53	Japan (yen)	193.43
Belgium (francs)	57.36	Maita (lira)	0.61
Canada (\$)	2,18	Netherlands (guilders)	3.13
Cyprus (pounds)	0.82	Norway (kroner)	II.34
Denmark (kroner)	10.65	Portugal (escudos)	280.59
France (francs)	9.33	Spain (pesetas)	233.73
Germany (marks)	2.79	Sweden (kroner)	11.94
Greece (drachmei)	442.26	Switzerland (francs)	2.30
Hong Kong (\$)	12.06	Turkey (lira)	262,813.00
Ireland (punts)	l.04	USA (\$)	1,57
	l.04		



for FREE software

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK news in the first half of 1996

PEOPLE



Brickies build their own West End gamble with star of EastEnders

Nicola Stapleton, who played the teenager Mandy in the soap opera- EastEnders, has achieved a first in west end theatre - she has persuaded a gang of building site workers to become 'angels' and invest in a new play in which she is starring.

Fourteen plasterers, painters, carpenters and labourers are setting the precedent by becoming associate luvvies. They have put £5000 into Scissor Happy, a comedy opening next month at the Duchess Theatre, which will be different every night. In another unprecedented move for West End theatre the audience is invited to play detective, ask the murder suspect who include Nicola Stapleton, questions, vote on who the murderer is, and then that ending is played out.

Nicola Stapleton plays a hairdresser, and the murder is committed above her salon.

Ellis Elias, who is co-producing the show, is also a property developer and the employer of the building site workers in Clerkenwell, London. He said:

"I was talking to them about this play, they became interested and said they wanted to invest in it but didn't have enough money. So I suggested

remember the

emerged yesterday.

the early hours of 31 August.

present amnesia is a serious blow to the investigation into Di-ana's death. It was hoped that Mr

Rees-Jones, 29, the only sur-

vivor of the crash, might provide

early answers to the two, great

outstanding questions. Did the

driver, Henri Paul, show any ob-

vious signs of the large quantities

of drink, and at least two pre-

scription drugs he had taken

that night? Did the Mercedes, in

which Diana's party was travel-

ling, strike or swerve to avoid an-

other car before colliding with a

central reservation pillar in an un-

All details of the judge's in-

vestigation are supposed to be

strictly secret under French law. But within half an hour of the

derpass beside the Seine?

night Diana died

that instead of investing individually, they club together. Fourteen of them have done that and bought two £2500 units. Yesterday Miss Stapleton visited the building workers to thank them for their faith in her.

In investing in a West End play the building workers are taking a gamble with high odds attached. Nick Salmon, chief executive of the Theatre Investment Fund which helps new producers, said: "It is a very high risk. The majority of productions fail to recoup all the capital invested. But if you get a hit show you can make a lot of money very quickly."

Even if the show has a long and successful run, investors are unlikely to do better than triple their money. Anything less than a long run could see them losing the lot. But the glamour of being involved with a West End show, going to the first night and getting to know the stars means there are many people keen to invest.

Sometimes individuals invest and sometimes consortia. Mr Salmon said: "Producers tend to keep their lists passescret because they don't want rivals to pinch hier investors."

-David Lister



Salpetrière, sources close to the investigation told the French news agency Agence France Presse that Mr Rees-Jones was suffering from amnesia. Further interviews would be arranged, the sources said, but the first meeting had yielded no useful infor-

It remains unclear whether Mr Rees-Jones, who suffered grave facial injuries, has yet recovered his powers of speech.

The Paris newspaper, France-Soir, yesterday splashed on its front page a picture, taken from the Internet, purporting to show Diana lying in the wreckage of the Mercedes just after the accident. The picture was disjudge leaving the hospital Pitié missed by the city's emergency

services and sources in the investigation as a fake. Ambulancemen or policemen, vaguely visible in the picture, are wear-

ing British-style uniforms. The Prince of Wales yesterday spoke for the first time in public about the grief experienced by his two sons and himself after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. "I think [the princes] are handling a very difficult time with enormous courage and greatest possible dignity," he told businessmen and community leaders in Manchester at the first public engagement since the death of his former wife. His words brought heartfelt applause and words of

— John Lichfield, Paris

Millionaire hires MORI to find out just what his neighbours think of him

Urs Schwazenbach was so curious that he commissioned a MORI poll to find out just what his neighbours thought of his jet-setting lifestyle.

Multi-millionaire Mr Schwazenbach lives in a lavish mansion house in Lower Shiplake near Henley-on-Thames. For the past seven years the Swiss financier has courted controversy with his neighbours by landing belicopters at his Harpsden es-

According to Mrs Joan Ritchie, a neighbour, interviewers from MORI had been there all week. "I was a bit thrown by it, she said, "but they have obviously been to everyone in our road."

Residents were quizzed on their views about aircraft noise, pollution and their perceptions of Mr Schwazenbach. They were not told who had commissioned the survey and some felt that they had been tricked.

Mrs Susan Crawford, of Harpsden Woods, Henley-on-Thames, said: "I feel as if I have been absolutely duped. A woman came to the door and told me she was just doing a questionnaire on air

Ever wondered what your neighbours think of you? house once because of the helicopter said yesterday that he understood the financier had ordered the survey to try to establish how many people objected to the huge Sigorsky.

Dr Hale admitted however, that he was slight-

ly biased against the millionaire after he sold his own house seven years ago, due to the noise of the helicopter, only to find that the new landing site is now at the bottom of the garden of his new house. Along with former Tomorrow's World presenter Raymond Baxter, Dr Hale is one of the leading lights in the villagers anti-chopper campaign.

"The helicopter's downblast used to cover our house and the cars with dust and leaves," he said. "I once had a do in the garden, the helicopter came over and we were all covered in dust and debris." "We think that he uses it to ferry his polo team around," said Mr Baxter, "Under planning law he's

not allowed to do that." Mr Schwazenbach was unavailable for comment yesterday but issued a statement through his agent, Ayre Maunsell, who said his client was keen to determine the "degree of concern among the whole

acignbourhood".

- Katy Weitz and Rupert Halden

HEALTH

Diabetes rate doubles in children

Diabetes in children under five has doubled in ten years and an environmental factor is almost certainly the cause, doctors say. A study in the Oxford region also found that diabetes in older children under 15 was increasing at a rate of 4 per cent a year.

Possible causes include exposure to cow's milk early in life or to vaccinations, but the researchers, writing in the British Medical Journal; note that it is "difficult to explain the apparently remorseless increase in incidence over three decades on any of these grounds".

Professor Gale, chief author of the study, said: The results are very dramatic. An increase on such a scale cannot be put down to genetic factors alone. The cause must therefore be environmental." Diabetes in early childhood has a greater impact on the patients and their families and a worse prognosis for complications in later life, he said.

- leremy Lourance

SOCIETY

Cost of youth crime in Scotland

Youth crime in Scotland costs at least £730m a year, according to a report published yesterday by The Prince's Trust.

Around 350,000 crimes, almost 40 per cent of all those recorded north of the border, are committed by people under the age of 20, the survey by consultancy firm Coopers & Lybrand discovered. "This is a large cost to Scotland and we believe that by acting on just some of the recommendations in the report that real savings and benefits can be achieved, said Arwyn Thomas, director of Prince's Trust-Action. The report's recommendations, aimed at the Scottish Office, police forces and councils, include: a recognition that effective youth work can prevent critics; a programme of youth work with "explicit" crime prevention objectives; police involvement in evaluating the effectiveness of local youth projects; and consideration of the impact of council policies on young people.

NATURE

Bird population on the rise

he bird population in Britain has boomed over the past two years, according to a big survey. Between 1994, when the Breeding Birds Survey was established, and 1996, 36 of the more common species increased, 48 were stable and 15 declined in number.

Among those on the up were the grey partridge and the bullfinch, both of which have given conservationists cause for concern because of sustained decline over several decades. Among the declines were two birds of prey, the sparrowhawk and the kestrel, and the swift, wren and mistle thrush. The survey is carried out by 2,000 binocular-wielding volunteers who look out for birds in a big sample of one-by-one demetre squares scattered across Britain, from uplands to city centres.

Norfolk IP24 2PU, Tel: 01842 750050.

Breeding Bird Survey, 1995-96, £5, from the BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford

- Nicholas Schoon

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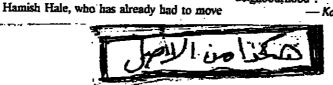
SCIENCE

Farmers to field a driverless tractor

A driverless tractor steered by satellite that can find its own way around a crop field with pinpoint precision could help to usher in a "third agricultural revolution", it was claimed yesterday. Researchers at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, expect the tractor to be the first of a new generation of fully automated farm and construction vehicles.

The 20,000 lbs tractor is guided by the Global Positioning System (GPS). 24 navigational satellites originally designed for the US military. Ultimately the system, described at the Institute of Navigation's GPS-97 conference in Kansas City, may lead to the development of "robot" tractors that a farmer can command from an office. Such precision agriculture is expected to improve farm productivity while reducing the use of fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides.





3/TRAIN CRASH

intites in Childh Have the lessons of Clapham still not been learnt?

The exact cause of the disaster will not be known until the inquiry results in several months' time. but Christian Wolmar and

Randeep Ramesh suggest possible reasons why the i0.32 Swansea to Paddington service ended in

. Speculation on the cause of Britain's worst rail disaster in nearly 10 years is likely to centre on why the freight train was in the path of the High Speed Train travelling at

pears that the freight train was partly blocktravelling, although the power car at the front of the HST was relatively undamaged.

This suggests that the HST hit the freight train with a glancing blow, which then train will stop automatically. opened up the sides of several carriages and caused them to jump the tracks.

There are two possible reasons. Either. which left the last wagon of the 35 or so still in the way of the HST, or possibly it rolled back very slightly after it had passed, just enough to clip the HST train.

Alternatively, the HST simply

close to 90mph. From early reports, it apway experts discount this theory because ing the line where the high-speed train was the train has an automatic warning system which sounds a horn as soon as it goes through any signal that is not a green. The driver then has to cancel the signal, or the

One possible explanation, according to Mel Holley of Rail magazine is that the driver had to go through a lot of yellow sigthe freight train had not cleared the tracks nals as there was a train in front of him going about the same speed. He said: "There is always a double-yellow and a yellow preceding a red stop signal. The driver might have had to cancel a lot of double-yellow signals and did not notice that

suddenly there was a yellow and then a red." The inquiry team will want to look at several questions:

Why was the freight train allowed to pass in front of the HST, while normally it would not have been allowed to pass?

If the HST did not go through the red - and the double-yellow and yellow which precede it - and the signal for it was green, why was the freight train still on the fast

Did the freight train derail or had it cleared the points and then rolled back? Railtrack was not prepared to speculate

on the cause of the crash. "The incident occurred a quarter of a mile east of Southall freight train," said a spokesman.

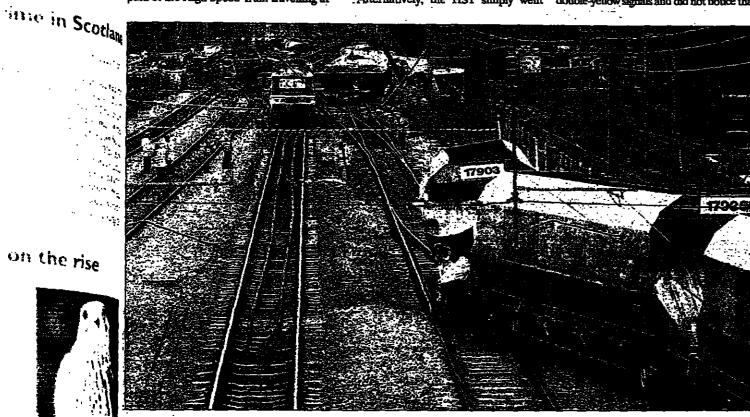
Piecing together the events will be the job of the Health and Safety Executive. It will will also be looking at the possibility of signal failure.

Joginder Bhatia, who was working nearby and was one of the first people to reach the scene, said that one of the rescuers said it looked like a signal had failed on the line, adding: "The [HST] train was given a green light when the other train had still not cleared the track."

One former British Rail safety manager pointed out that lives might have been

station where the passenger train travelling saved had the railways installed automat-towards London struck the side of the ic train protection (ATP) systems. Peter ic train protection (ATP) systems. Peter Rayner, who led safety investigations for BR, pointed out that the systems - which had been recommended after the Clapham train inquiry - had been dropped because of cost considerations. "The line was used as a test bed for the early ATP devices but is not clear how much of the fleet had the system installed," he said.

Roger Ford, editor of Rail Privatisation News, said that this "side-swipe" type of accident was the worst kind of railway disaster. *Unlike a head to head collision where the energy is absorbed by the structure, this type of glancing hit produces the most damage





'I saw a body lying by the tracks, covered in blood'

They spoke of a terrifying crash, of fears. that overhead power cables would fall down upon them and they described their horror at being locked inside carriages while smoke rose around them. For those who survived yesterday's train crash, the memories will linger on. Steve Boggan reports

I on the rise

Among those involved in yesterday's train crash were journalists who had been reporting on the vote on Weish devolution. Under different circumstances they would have been covering the accident; yesterday they spoke as eye-witnesses.

BBC researcher Nick Sutton, 23, described terrifying scenes of devastation, injury and death. He felt "three large bangs" and was thrown against a lavatory wall in one of the carriages before being gold to get out fast.

"As I walked off the train, I the tracks," he said. "No one was touching it. His shirt was ripped and there was blood all over him. There were people unburt. with blood on their faces as well.

"Everyone was shocked. There was a really strong smell. I don't know if it was the brakes or it was from hitting a goods sions and chairs all over the train. It was nerve-wracking, especially seeing the body." Mark Cole, a senior BBC re-

porter, was one of those on board. Speaking live to Radio 4's The World at One, he described the scene as "utter chaos". After passing Reading the train "seemed to pick up speed and within seconds had left the track", he said.

"Glass was flying through the windows. The carriage I was in veered off. It caught fire. There was smoke everywhere. Obviously it broke into panic."

Mr Cole said he could see the other train in the wreckage - a goods train with yellow carriages. "It has certainly been hit by the InterCity train but it isn't clear whether it has ploughed into that on the line or actually just collided with that when it derailed."

He said the train had been "packed". In his carriage, there were no spare seats and some passengers were standing up. His colleague, Jane Garvey, the presenter of the BBC Radio 5 Live Breakfast Programme. said there were so many people on board the Swansea train that she was squeezed into a first-class compartment.

Speaking live as the drama unfolded, she said: "We seem to saw a body lying by the side of have hit something on the tracks. I think at the very least, people are very badly hurt. We are absolutely petrified, but

"There is billowing smoke, very acrid, it stinks. I can see bits of twisted metal, which must be carriages, and people's possestrack. It is total and utter



The wreckage of the two trains at Southall yesterday (top left) and firefighters attempting to rescue passengers (top right) trapped in the remains of the 10.32 Swansea to Paddington service. Above, stunned survivors following the tragedy which killed six people

doors remained locked.

Some survivors spoke of one

frightening having smoke rising up when you couldn't get out."

Survivors were taken to a stunned by the train. I grabbed by paramedics. Manjit Singh, one of the first people at the cene, said he heard cries for help and comforted the driver

have to answer a few questions of the InterCity train. "We dirty. The engine was on fire. about that," he said. "It was very heard the noise and went run-From the second carriage there ning down there," he said. "The were cries of 'Help, help, help'." The disaster was best driver was sitting shocked and

summed up by Dr Michael Rudolph, medical director of a crash at Hither Green, south Ealing Hospital. He said: "The scene has been described to me "He was all black from the as looking like a major aircraft disaster - carnage."

of carnage on the network Disasters on Britain's

railways have occurred with grim regularity. The Southall crash takes the toli over the last 10 years to some 70 dead and more than 700 injured. Stephen Goodwin reports.

For sheer carnage, no rail crash matches the horror of the triple collision at Ouintinshill, Dumfries and Galloway, on 22 May 1915, when 227 people died.

A 213-yard-long troop train was telescoped to less than a men were sentenced for manslaughter.

Yesterday's tragedy occurred on the same line and little more than two miles from the scene of a crash in 1973 which killed 10 people and injured 94.

An express train from Paddington to Oxford was derailed at Ealing - the crash was blamed on an open battery-box door, which hit a signalling control box.

The country's second-worst crash was at Harrow and Wealdstone, north London, in October 1952, when 112 people were killed and 340 hurt. Two express trains collided and a third ran into the wreckage on an adjoining line. Fifteen years later, 49 people were killed in

London. More recently, 36 people were killed and more than 100 injured in a triple collision at

Clapham Junction, Britain's busiest rail intersection, in south London, on 12 December 1988. A rush-hour express from Bournemouth slammed into the back of stationary commuter service.

As passengers scrambled out, a third train ploughed into the wreckage. A signalling fault was blamed.

A rapid succession tragedies followed. In March 1989, five people died and more than 90 were injured when two trains collided outside Purley station, in Surrey.

Two days later, two people died and 52 were injured in a two-train collision on a singlethird of its length. Two signal- track line at Glasgow Bellgrove station. In August the same year, a driver was killed and 35 people injured at Stafford when an empty train ran into the buck of the Manchester-to-Penzance express. Four months later, 15 people were injured when two InterCity expresses collided at Newcastle.

> More than 240 were injured and two killed in Junuary 1991 when a packed commuter train demolished the buffers at Cannon Street station and soon afterwards four people died and 22 were injured in a head-on collision at Newton station. near Glasgow.

> In October 1994, five people were killed and 11 injured when two passenger trains collided in fog on a single line at Cowden. Kent. And in August last year one woman was killed and 69 people injured when two trains crashed head-on outside Watford Junction station.

of the carriages bursting into flames. Others spoke of scrambling away from live power lines as they crashed down on to the tracks. One man said passengers had to wait inside carriages while smoke billowed around them because the train's

"I think British Rail [sic] will

nearby school and looked after him and asked him if he was all smoke and his clothes were all

right. He said 'What has hap-

Ye shall drink no wine, Jeremiah 35:6 for it is written.

4/WALES DECIDES

'Yes' by a whisker. Now the deals begin

Wales voted 'Yes' to devolution by a whisker, but it was big enough to give Tony Blair the mandate for reform. Tony Heath describes the nailbiting climax, and Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says it could encourage opponents in the Commons and the Lords.

Tony Blair promised to "respond to the fears" about change, but made it clear that

lution Bills would begin on time in November, in spite of winning a "yes" vote by the narrowest of margins in the Welsh referendum.

The result was in the balance, until final vote from Carmarthenshire swung it in favour of "yes". The figures were 559,419 (50.3 per cent) to 552,698 (49.7 per cent), a majority of just 6,721 (0.6 per cent). Only 25 per cent of the total electorate in Wales voted "yes" and Cardiff, the Welsh capital, where the Assembly will be based, voted "no".

The narrowness of the vote provided something for all sides the Scotland and Wales devo- Mr Blair stayed in Downing the overwhelming Scottish Secretary of State for Wales.

Street, and looked more relieved than elated in contrast to to take from the referendum. week earlier in Edinburgh for the sack for Ron Davies, the

"Doors, skirtings, mouldings and

dado rails - you'll find them

"yes" vote. A defeat would have been a body blow to his rehis triumphant celebration a forms, and it could have meant

William Hague, the Conservative leader, said it was a "very stark warning to the Government about the dangers of

country. It shows the danger of dividing Wales. We have seen the country split down the middle. I hope they will stop and think what they are doing before they bring any legislation to the House of Commons".

The "no" campaigners said that they would have won if the referendum had been held on the same night as the Scottish poll. John Redwood, the former Tory Secretary of State for Wales, said it would act as a "check on Blair's ambitions".

Lord Stoddart, a Labour peer and opponent of devolution, said a majority of 0.6 per cent was "not good enough even the National Union of Mineworkers requires 55 to 45 per cent before going on strike, damn it". Lord Archer, the Tory peer, said the Lords would stick to the Salisbury principle of not blocking the legislation, but it would take a different view of the Scottish and Welsh bills, because of the results.

rebel MPs who supported the tant, although Llew Smith was facing a difficult meeting ficer, Professor Eric Sunderland, with his Blaenau Gwent con-

Mr Blair said that moves to create a Welsh assembly would carry on while the Government concentrated on "allaying the fears of people that were expressed during the campaign and making sure we show them this is a sensible measure of decentralisation".

He said: "It was right to give people a say. They voted in favour of it. We are delighted with the result. But it is important that we respond to the fears that were expressed by people."

Downing Street officials emphasised that the majority would not stop the devolution Bills. "A majority of one would

An intriguing aspect of the Some of the six Labour of sizeable "yes" votes in the old

Cardiff arms: The 'yes' party in the capital erupts with delight in the early hours of Friday morning as the final result – for Carmarthenshire -- came through and gave the seal of approval to the devolution proposals

Photograph: Tom Pilston

industrial areas of South Wales and the Welsh-speaking rural counties of the north and west.

Whoever decided to book the Welsh College of Music and Drama as the nerve centre for the referendum count made an inspired choice. The night was replete with nail-biting tension – a political thriller á la

Initially, anti-devolution votes piled up in rural areas along the English border. Then some Labour strongholds in the south tilted the balance. But Newport and Cardiff waded in with big "no" votes.

Then at 3.40 yesterday morning the chief counting ofa former vice-chancellor of the University of Wales announced that Carmarthenshire bad delivered sufficient "yes" votes to see the devolution proposals

The margin prompted Cardiff to take on the look of Catalonia rejoicing - albeit in the rain. The strains of the Welsh National anthem wafted through the streets. Flags and glasses were raised. Sian Lloyd, ITV's giamour weather girl wept tears of joy.

No one was happier than the Secretary of State. Linking arms with his ministerial colleagues Peter Hain and Wyn Griffiths, Liberal Democrat MP Richard Livsey and Plaid Cymru leader have been enough," one source Dafydd Wigley MP, Mr Davies praised the co-operation that had turned a 4-1 quote "no" result was the coming together vote in the 1979 referendum into a slim victory.

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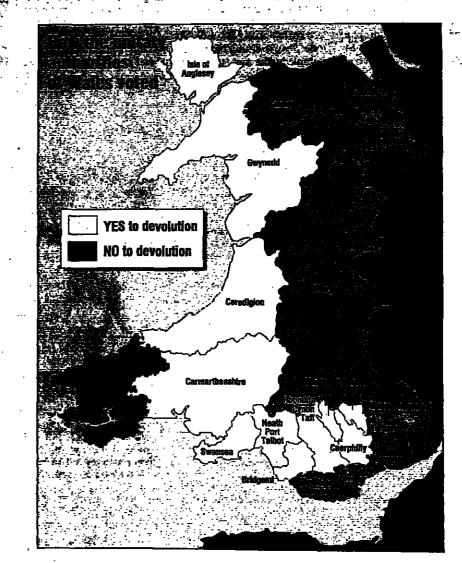
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Independence enthusiasts caught on horns of dilemma

The Reverend RS Thomas is erset to clinch the county chamdismissive of the referendim result. A poet who commands international respect, he admits voting in favour of an elected Weish assembly. Once nominated for a Nobel Prize for literature he claimed that only crumbs were on offer, "I have no appetite for crumbs from the

English table" he said.

The choice on the ballot paper - whether to support the Government's devolution proposals or oppose them - put Welsh people on the horns of a dilemma. The English did not want Wales to be independent. "It was like asking you if you've stopped beating your wife," he

Robert Croft, the Glamorgan and England cricketer, was in the pavilion at Taunton waiting for the weather to improve the challenge of defeating Som- which are inadequately dealt

pionship.

"I've always tried to steer clear of politics. But one thing I should like to see in a new Wales is a cricket academy at Sophia Gardens, our county, ground in Cardiff. Glamorgan won the county championship in 1969. We're keeping our fingers crossed for a repeat this season. An academy could help to make it a treble in the years to come."

Hooson, followed in the footsteps of Clement Davies, Liberal MP for Montgomery from a west-east split because it's the 1929 to 1962. He went to the Lords after losing his seat in 1979. Conceding that under the Government's plans an elected assembly would only command limited powers.

He said: "It will concenso that the county could take up trate on those Welsh affairs all regions of Wales."

with because of lack of time at Westminster. With the benefit of proportional representation [20 of the 60 assembly members will be elected by PR] it will be more truly representative of

Wales." Sian Lloyd, the television weather presenter who was born in Penarth, South Wales. said she wanted the assembly to speak and act for the whole of Wales. "It's really important that we all pull together and al-Emlyn Hooson, now Lord leviate the fears of the Noes. They talked about the northsouth split but in the end it was eastern side of Wales, Gwent and Newport, who had all the inward investment.

> "They benefited from the Welsh Development Agency so they didn't want change. But the assembly has to provide for

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5/POLITICS

Westminster whispers fuel talk of a Tory coup

Here is some news that William Hague, the youthful Tory leader, may not enjoy. In a Spanish villa owned by one of the party's most famous conspirators, John Major and Chris Patten, the 'lost leader' of the Tory left, have been talking this week. Is this the beginning of 'the Candeleda coup', designed to remove Hague, as some Tory MPs think - or simply a convivial gathering of friends? Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, investigates.

The whisper at Westminster was clear enough. The former prime minister and the former governor of Hong Kong had made a secret rendezvous, meeting up at the Spanish home of Tristan Garel-Jones, their mutual friend and former minister for Europe.

The reputation of Mr Garelsome: the Tory right still blame him for the Single European Act, entry into the Exchange Rate Mechanism, the downfall of Margaret Thatcher, and the succession of John Major.

So if Major, Patten and Garel-Jones were in secret conclave, according to the theorists. that could only mean one thing: they were plotting the imminent downfall of the hapless William Hague, in the olive groves of Candeleda, a village west of Madrid. Unfairly or not, Mr and Mr Major could be heard Hague is already being written in the background, saying: "I off by some of his own MPs as told you ... a lightweight, unable to cope with Tony Blair. Mr Patten returns to live in London shortly. It is assumed that, if he wants to return to the Commons, here with a drink." there will be no problem about finding him a seat: indeed, Mr Major's own Huntingdon con- a drink in the sun, trying to former governor] cry ... and we

stituency has been mentioned.

When he answered The Independent's telephone call Jones for conspiracy is awe- yesterday, Mr Garel-Jones naturally - could not have been more dismissive.

'You're about a million miles off the mark," he said. However, in his fluent Spanish, he then called for a cordless phone, "so I can tell the boys".

After a slight pause, he announced breathlessly to Mr Major, Norma, and Mr Patten: "This is Tony Bevins who's ringing to say that there is talk in Westminster that there is a conspiracy here." He chuckled,

Mr Garel-Jones said he was trying hard not to laugh, but he laughed and Mr Major said: "Just tell him that we're sitting

"Yeah," said Mr Garel-Jones, "we're sitting here with

decide ... The conspiracy consists of this ...'

At that point, Mr Patten ioined in the general badinage, shouting: "Tell him what the former governor is doing."

"The governor is reading The Principles of Gardening by Hugh Johnson and Roads to Santiago by Kate Nurthloom," said Mr Major.

Then, Mr Garel-Jones added: "They are all being forced to read my article in last week's Spectator, advocating that bull-fighting should be taught in all primary schools in

"And the main topic of discussion is who is going to walk down to the village, five kilometres; that's Plan A. Plan B is those who are not walking to the village, who will be led by me, who will go down in a motor car.

"An aperitif will be taken in a bar called La Capra ... several aperitifs I hear someone [the

will then return from luncheon It is then put to Mr Garel- says firmly. "Well I regret to tell Jones that the big question is you that it has not yet been on the leadership of the Tory par-

and we will then ... [it sounds like a suggestion from the former Prime Minister] sleep for quite a long time, and then we may go to a village this after-

noon and buy some pottery."

how the former governor is going to walk the five kilometres back to the House of Commons.

the agenda." Note the operative word, "yet". But, then, there is an ever

Mr Garel-Jones repeats the question to his audience, and mer governor is going to walk point you."

the further six kilometres into ty? "Well, that has not been on the agenda either," says Mr Garel-Jones, briskly but cheerbigger question: How the for- fully. "So I am sorry to disap-

Gain in Spain: John Major, his wife Norma and Chris Patten have been holidaying this week at the villa of Tristan Garel-jones, fueiling rumours back home a move against William Hague Photograph: Javier Lacaba

There are many colleagues at Westminster who will find it hard to take seriously the suggestion that in the secluded privacy of a Spanish villa, after a fine dinner, finer wine and the best possible brandy, Tristan Garel-Jones's house guests could avoid talking about the current dire straits of the Conservative Party.

And the possible succession of the former governor of Hong Kong to the leadership.

Blair and activists set for showdown at the seaside

in his party's conference guide he will not slow the pace of change in spite of misgivings by the unions. But there are also rumblings over a decision to make his speech an all-ticket event.

Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports.

Tony Blair's first speech to the party conference as Prime Minister is being made ticket-only. leaving overspill audiences to watch it on big screens outside the main conference hall.

Reaching out to more people has meant that a record number - 23,000 people - have asked for accreditation for the conference, which starts at Brighton Conference Centre a

Activists are concerned they further change, raising the the old ways."

MPs are also worried that they may not receive the special tickets for admission, while big donors get ringside seats.

The party conference guide carries a warning that tickets will be needed for the speech in addition to security passes, and they will be issued with all credentials. "Due to the huge dehave access to the conference hall for this session.

These people will be able to watch the speech on a large screen in the Kingswest cinema complex. Additional screens are situated in the exhibition area in the Metropole Hotel and the Hewison Hall."

In a foreword to the conference guide, Mr Blair warns there will be no return to the "old ways", and makes it clear controversial reforms in spite of says. rumblings from the unions.

The Prime Minister, whose strategy was backed by the Cabinet yesterday, shows he is determined to force the pace of

Tony Blair makes it clear will not get in, and Labour prospect of a showdown at the seaside with trade unionists and traditional party supporters.

Some union activists fear the changes to the national executive due to be endorsed at the conference could pave the way for an eventual break between Labour and the unions.

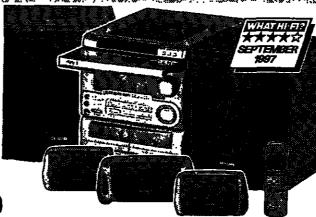
That charge is denied by Labour party leaders. The foremands, some will not be able to word says: "Yes, we changed as a party - we had to if we were ever to form a government again. And yes we will keep on changing to make our party stronger, more democratic, with real roots in the community.

"What has excited the country - and visitors from around the world - is that new Labour is a real break with the past. We are breaking down the old barriers between different sections of society, standing at the cenhe is pressing ahead with further tre and reaching out to all," he

> And Mr Blair adds: "How conference conducts its business, as the sovereign body of our party, must reflect the belief that we can never return to

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Robin Cook rejects single currency call

The Government has to decide within the next few months whether Britain should enter the phase wave of the single European currency. Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent reports that Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, signalled that it was "unlikely".

The Foreign Secretary yesterday dismissed appeals by Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, for Britain to join the first wave of countries launching a single European currency in 1999.

membership of the EU, said a single currency would bring economic benefits and he expected a large number of states would be in it from the start.

But Robin Cook said that it was unlikely Britain would sign up to be part of the project from 1 January 1999. A decision will be made by ministers around the end of the year.

Tony Blair, Gordon Brown [the Chancellor] and myself, have all said it is unlikely that Britain will be joining, partly because we are a new government with a big agenda to do," he told

But Mr Cook, regarded as a leading sceptic on the single currency in the Cabinet, left open Britain being drawn in at a latthe nossibility of Britain ininine

mote monetary urion and wider at a later stage after the first wave. "I don't know about pretty soon after. We have always said that if it goes ahead and if it's a success, then in the longer term, it would be difficult for Britain to stay out," he said.

The Government is insisting on "genuine" economic convergence before Britain will join, and has promised a refer-The Tories, under William

Hague, now rule out joining for

the lifetime of the next Parliament - until 2007. The single

currency issue split the Tories

er stage.

before the election, but some leading Euro-sceptics in the party will be pressing Mr Hague to go on the offensive to oppose

Jack May, The **Archers' Nelson** Gabriel, dies, aged 75

Jack May, who for 46 years played the surve antiques dealer and wine bar owner Nelson Gabriel in Radio 4's long-running serial The Archers, died yesterday in Hove General Hospital, in West Sussex following a long illness. He was 75

The cast of the series, who were told of his death while recording in Birmingham, were said to be "devastated".

One of the veterans of the programme, which began in 1950, May found fame with his portrayal of Gabriel, a wine bar manager and rather unscrupulous antique dealer, who was written into the series in 1951. Whispers in the fictional village of Ambridge often suggested that not all Gabriel's business dealings were above suspicion. May often said that he felt that he had a lot in common with his character, who he once described as "a whizzkid who has settled down a bit".

Obituary, page 24

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Unionists' historic encounter with Sinn Fein

The Ulster Unionist Party is likely to come face to face with Sinn Fein for the first time in more than half a century in the Stormont talks early next week.

The encounter promises to be more of a confrontation than a conciliation, since the agenda item is likely to be a Unionist motion to have the republicans expelled on the grounds that they continue to espouse violence.

None the less, it will carry a powerful symbolic charge in that the hope of the Government and others is that early clashes may eventually lead on to the two sides doing serious business.

The scene for the meeting was set on Wednesday, when after much initial hesitation the Unionists walked into the Stormont talks where Sinn Fein had already taken their David Trimble (pictured) said then that he had come not to negotiate with republicans but to confront them.

It will come as a major surprise if the Unionist indictment of Sinn Fein succeeds and the republicans are expelled. One part of the Unionist case is that the IRA must have had some involvement in the bomb in the County Armagh town of Markethill on Tuesday.

Security sources judge, however, that the attack was almost certainly the work of the Continuity Army Council, which has no connection to the IRA. Sinn Fein will however face intense interrogation on the IRA's declaration that it "has problems with" the Mitchell principles of non-violence. The Ulster Unionist MP Jeffrey Don-

place. Their party leader aldson said no final decision had been taken on the party's tactics, but added: "However we did give a commitment that we would confront Sinn Fein as appropriate, and there is no better issue to confront them with than the question of their links with the IRA."

> Meanwhile, a further reminder that the entire republican community is not behind Sinn Fein's approach to the peace process came when another splinter group, the Irish National Liberation Army, staged an attack on a police station late on Thursday night. A grenade thrown at Rosemount RUC station in Londonderry failed to explode, and was later found on a bank outside the heavily fortified base. - David McKittrick

ireland Correspondent

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Britons carry on with holidays in wake of Cairo bombing

British tourists were yesterday carrying on with their holidays in Cairo following Thursday's bombing which left nine German tourists and their bus driver

Thomson Holidays, the UK's biggest tour operator, said only six of its 89 clients in Cairo had elected to take the option of leaving for Luxor in southern Egypt.

Start Sep 2 1 2

The company said that contrary to its statement yesterday, it had not stopped trips to Cairo. A Thomson spokeswoman said: We are carrying on with stays in, and excursions to, Cairo, although our clients have the option of going to Luxor instead,"

Thomson holidaymakers due to fly our to Egypt tomorrow have all been informed by letter of the latest situation.

Thursday's attack on a tourist bus also injured about 20 people. Muslim extremists are thought to have been responsible. although no group has yet admitted to the

volving a marked police car

An examination of accidents

that there were 92 deaths and

1,025 serious injuries. Of the

deaths, about 40 per cent oc-

curred during pursuits and

about one-fifth while on a re-

on routine patrol.

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Police injure many

One-fifth of the people killed an died after an accident in

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The report on nearly 770 in between 1990 and 1993 found

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riously injured by a police ve-

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one-fifth of the cases the car did

not have any emergency sirens

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some "cause for concern" that

5 per cent of the incidents in-

volved police officers with only

basic driver skills. There was

also criticism of the lack of an

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the number of accidents in-

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Police Complaints Authority, at of Chief Police Officers.

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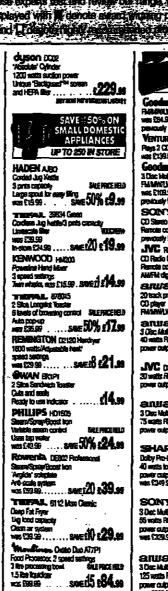
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previous year. Only last month the Home Office, Police Rea 20 year old female pedestri- search Group, 0171-273 3133. **Badger-baiters** caught in DNA trap

Fourmen face jail after animal for the first time in the UK to We had caught no offenders on convict them of badger-baiting. The case brought against the

four Derbyshire men by the RSPCA hinged on DNA samples taken from a dead badger which was linked to blood samples taken from a knife and clothing belong to the men.

At a two-day trial at Bakewell Magistrates' Court, Garry Shaw, 28 of Matlock, Gary Pettipierre, 37, a stone waller, of Alderwasley, John Wragg, 32, of Belper, and Michael Holland, 32, unemployed, of Chaddesden had denied three charges of contravening the Protection of Badgers Act by killing and digging up the badger and interfering with a sett. They were

spector Darryl Street said: death.

"When we first started the case DNA genetic profiling was used 18 months ago I was sceptical. site and there were no confessions we had nothing to tie them down with and we were not go-

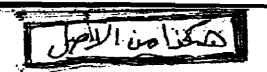
ing to proceed with the case. We then decided to follow the DNA lead. We had two visible stains on the overalls but these were not strong enough to take the case forward. Without DNA there would not have been a case. This will send shock waves through the badger baiting community and you will certainly see more use of ... DNA to bring these cases to COurt."

Badger conservationists told the court how they lay in wait for the four men, as they approached a badger sett on Cromford Moor. They watched found guilty on all three counts. in horror as the animal was After the case, RSPCA Inknifed, then bludgeoned to

Scapa Flow search for diver

was raised.

An air and sea search was under way yesterday for a diver faced near their boat, reporting missing in Scapa Flow, Orkney. that his friend was missing. He Lifeboats, diving charter boats was in a party of divers explorand an RAF helicopter were ing wrecks of the First World looking for the man, who had War German fleet scattled at only a small amount of oxygen Scapa Flow. A spokeswoman for left in his tanks when the alarm Pentland Coastguard said hope had not been abandoned of



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ritons carry, The biggest personal gift in the history of the world rake of Cairo On Thursday night. Ted Nations Association of the for the UN bureaucracy, it will give a billion, what on earth is your problem, leader of the last,

at a New York dinner for American supporters of the United Nations, Mr Turner has always been vocal in his enthusiasm for the UN. But his pledge of a personal gift of one billion dollars stunned one and all.

David Usborne shares in the shock.

The idea came to Ted Turner some time in the middle of the week. Impulsive though he may be, he thought first to check it out with his wife, Jane Fonda. In his words: "It brought tears to her eyes".

Not just to Ms Fonda's. If they were not actually crying at United Nations headquarters yesterday, they might just as well have been. Mr Turner, injure me the broadcast outcome and founder of CNN, had announced on Thursday night ine patro sation \$1bn (£580m) of his own money.

This is no bagatelle, not even to Mr Turner, who last year sold his television business to Time Warner, where he is now vice-president. It represents almost a third of his total worth. As far as anyone can surmise, it is the biggest philanthropic gift made by any single person in history.

It is tempting to imagine tears also in Washington DC. Not of joy but rather of embarrassment. If the UN has been on its knees in recent times, scraping money together like a bum on the street, it has been because of the failure of the US government to pay up back dues of about \$1.3bn. Mr Turner, who was at-

tending a dinner of the United

tioned by name: Bill Gates (pictured) of Microsoft The timing is dastardly. This eek, Mr Gates, estimated to be worth around \$40bn, moved into a new home on the shores of Lake Washington

US off the hook. The money

will be paid into a foundation

in \$100m instalments over 10

years to finance programmes

for refugees, children, the en-

vironment and clearing land-

Ted Turner threw down the

About \$50 million. What may follow now is a game of billionaires' chicken. It is a race to see who can give away the most money in the shortest time and claim a place in history as the Andrew Carnegie of the 1990s.

near Seattle. How much did this

that he will pick a time to give up his stewardship of the software colossus he founded and dedicate the rest of his life to giving away his extraordinary wealth. A similar promise has been made by America's second richest man, Warren Buffett, who has accumulated a fortune of at least \$8bn through his investment company, Berkshire Hathaway. He has said he intends giving away 98 per cent of it to a charitable foundation.

Pity President Bill Clinton. therefore, who is due to address the new session of the UN General Assembly in New York on Monday. The sub-text will be vivid. If one man (even if it does mines. The missing US cash is happen to be Mr Turner) can

greatest and only super-power?

The happiest man at the UN

BILLIONAIRES' GAME

gaundet to his fellow billionaires to follow his lead. One, he men-

temple of luxury cost him?

Mr Gates has aiready vowed

Mr Turner began his nagging over a year ago. It was then that he told the New York Times that he broke the spell cast on him and his peers by the Forbes list of the richest on the planet. "That list is destroying our country!", he declared. "These super-new rich won't loosen up

their wads because they're afraid they'll reduce their net worth and go down the list." Even before yesterday, the

game had started. In June, the main contestants were Mr Gates himself and another computer tycoon, Larry Elison of Oracle software. Ellison announced plans to spend \$100 million on donating computers to schools. Barely six hours before the Elison gift was unveiled, Microsoft came out of the trap with its own contribution to the greater good - a \$200 million pledge to equip libraries with personal computers and software. There was fury at Oracle at what they believed was a deliberate ploy by Mr Gates to eclipse Mr Elison's donation.

Just like Mr Carnegie, neither Gares nor Elison were acting out of selflessness - both their companies stood to benefit. Through his gift to the UN. however, Mr Turner can expect only a warm feeling, and plenty of good publicity.

is surely Kofi Annan, the newish UN Secretary-General, who got early word from Mr Turner on Thursday afternoon of what was to come. The donation is a giant boost to Mr Annan as he seeks to winkle the missing money out of the US while at the same time forging ambitious reforms to the make the UN more efficient and more accountable.

Mr Annan is suitably grateful. "It is a great gesture and it is a noble gesture," he said. "I hope others who are also fortunate and have the capacity to give will follow Ted Turners example". Sir John Weston, the British ambassador, also paid tribute to Mr Turner.

"This is a spectacular and imaginative gesture that will show how easy it is to do something to get the UN back on its feet again when there are people out there who believe in it enough". Easy for those with a spare billion, anyway.

Mr Turner, indeed, has not only promised Mr Annan to encourage others to contribute to the new foundation, but instantly challenged others with large fortunes to follow his lead. "I am putting every rich person in the world on notice," he told the CNN interviewer Larry King.

"There's a lot of people who are awash in money they don't know what to do with. It doesn't do any good if you don't know what to do with it. I have learned the more good that I did, the more money comes in. You have to learn to give. You're not born a giver. You're born selfish".

The extraordinarily dramatic impact of Mr Turner's announcement was heightened by the casual, almost off-hand, nature of its of its delivery. He



UN \$1bn in \$100m instalments, reckoned to be the biggest philanthropic hand-out in history

decided on the amount, he additional fortune accumulatsaid, because "a billion is a good round number".

He explained further that since December last year his net worth had grown from \$2.2bn to \$3.2bn. Thus the donation, which will be paid in Time Warner stock, represents the

ed over nine months. "I've still got \$2bn left. If I make some more money I could give more away. This is just extra, you know ... this was sort of spur of the moment."

Mr Turner has long nurtured close ties with the UN. Two

years ago, his CNN network was awarded a UN prize for its commitment to coverage of the UN. Nearly a year ago he used an appearance at a UN conference to attack Rupert Murdoch, his broadcasting nemesis, and liken him to Hitler.

He also - not without en-

couragement from his wife - has long worked as a champion of various liberal and environmental causes, extending to the herds of bison now roaming his Montana ranches. His other love, meanwhile, is baseball and the Atlanta Braves team, which he owns.



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Victory for settlers in Jerusalem tussle

The Jewish settlers who, backed by an American millionaire, are attempting to establish themselves in a Palestinian part of jerusalem, have reached agreement with the Israeli government on their future. But, writes Patrick Cockburn, what is being presented as a compromise deal is really a total victory.

The American millionaire Irving Moskowitz has won a neartotal victory in his attempt to establish a new Jewish neighbourhood in the previously Palestinian district of Ras al-Amoud in east Jerusalem. Under a "compromise", the present 11 Jewish settlers will be replaced by 10 seminary students who will guard and renovate the largest villa they have

occupied. In effect, Benjamin Neister, has changed the status quo in east Jerusalem - the balance between Muslims and Jews something which earlier in the week he had promised not to do. Going by past experience, Palestinian anger will lead to violence, probably in the form of suicide bombs.

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, yesterday called the "compromise" a trick, but appears interested primarily in milking the issue for as much diplomatic advantage as he can, by preventing violent demonstrations on the streets. He also wants to show Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, that the threat to the peace process comes from Mr Netanyahu and not himself.

The Israeli Prime Minister said the agreement was the best possible for "the unity of Jerusalem, the unity of the nation, and the continuation of the

Apart from stone-throwing at Israeli troops by boys in Hebron yesterday there was little violence after Palestinian Mus-

Israeli security says it has charged two members of Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation, with planning to kidnap Ebud Olmert, the rightwing Mayor of Jerusalem, and explode a bomb in the city's largest mall.

The deal whereby the Israeli government has effectively given its sanction to the settlement at Ras al-Amoud was agreed by Avigdor Kahalani, the Internal Security Minister.

But it emerged in the Israeli press that Dr Moskowitz had given \$1m (£600,000), a lot of money in Israeli politics, to fund a lobbying group opposed to Israel returning the Golan Heights to Syria, which became the nucleus of Mr Kahalani's party, the Third Way.

The settlers claim that by establishing the beginnings of a new Jewish settlement at Ras al-Amoud they have completed a ring around Jerusalem which breaks up the continuity of the Palestinian districts in the city. They say their intention is to make it impossible for Paestinians to have their own



Behind the mask: A boy protecting himself in Kuala Lumpur as smog levels rise

LATEST VAX

Emergency over Borneo fires

Malaysia declared a state of emergency in its Borneo island state of Sarawak yesterday as smoky pollution from forest fires that has enveloped South-east Asia reached dangerous levels.

Activity in normally bustling Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, slowed as schools, businesses, government offices and airports shut. Malaysia Airlines said all flights to Kuching had been cancelled or diverted.

Hospitals and food stores were allowed to stay open.

The Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed said: "With the API (air quality) level in Sarawak state having reached above 500, and expected to continue, I declare a state of emergency for the state."

A reading over 500 is regarded as extremely dangerous and a senior environment official said: "If you are exposed to air at 200 to 300 on the API for a day, it could be roughly like smoking [20] cigarettes."

The pollution, which has shrouded Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei for weeks, is caused largely by thousands of forest fires in Indonesia. particularly on Sumatra and the Indonesian part of Borneo.

In Kuching's smog-shrouded streets, hawkers sold masks marked up as much as three times from orig-Photograph: Reuters in al prices.

France and Germany fail to bridge gap on Emu

Germany and France reiterated their commitment yesterday to launching European monetary union on schedule, but remained divided over control of the new currency. Meeting in the east German city of Weimar, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin reached for three different solutions. While stressing the independence of the future European Central Bank, Mr Jospin called for "informal structures" to allow governments a say in economic matters. Germany remains adamant that there could be no political interference in the bank's work. President Chirac fudged.

Disagreement also surfaced over French proposals for a community-wide policy to tackle unemployment, but Mr Chirac and Mr Kohl came out with identical wordings when asked about the : forthcoming British presidency of the EU, which will oversee the selection of candidates to monetary union. The two men had "no doubt that Tony Blair will be the best possible chairman".

Poland's era of uncertainty

Four years of strong Polish governments led by ex-communists drew towards a close yesterday as voters prepared, for better or worse, to leap into uncertainty. Polls suggest tomorrow's parliamentary vote could produce another coalition steered by former communists, a centre-right alliance around the Solidarity bloc. or stalemate. The election results may be just the start of weeks of haggling before a cabinet forms. Even then, the government may be shakier than the current coalition of former communists and Peasants, which won a nearly two-thirds majority in 1993. President Aleksander Kwasniewski says a deadlock would be the worst outcome as Poland enters talks on joining Nato and the

Plea for N. Korean children

The food aid arm of the United Nations warned yesterday of a risk of "massive mortality" in North Korea following a sample testing that showed about 17 per cent of young children surveyed in the country are seriously undernourished. "Without adequate assistance we can expect massive mortality in the coming winter. Nutritionally, North Koreans are already pressed to the limit," Catherine Bertini, World Food Programme head, said.

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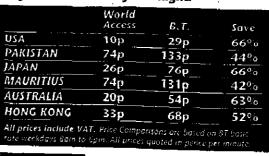
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Witch-sniffers go to school

Two South African schools arranged witch-sniffing ceremonies yesterday to root out teacher sorcerers widely believed to be bewitching their colleagues. Regional education officials said they disapproved, but that there was nothing they could do to stop the traditional rites, which had the backing of pupils and families in White River, in rural eastern Mpumalanga province. Lynchings of the accused have sometimes followed suiffings in the highly superstitious region.

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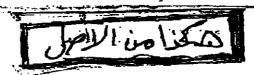
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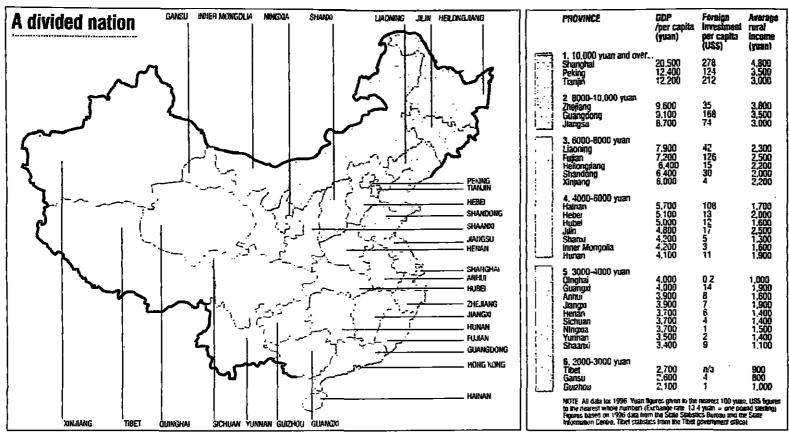












The Party's 'Magnificent Seven' step out in style

China's President Jiang Zemin's has secured his political power base. Economic reform is now secure, but his victory probably means a setback for political reform. Teresa Poole looks at winners and losers.

The "Magnificent Seven" of Chinese politics, the Standing Committee of the party's Politburo, was revealed to the world vesterday.

The first surprise was the absence of green army uniforms. The seat vacated by the dumping of ageing general Liu Huaqing was turned over to a

Leading the pack was a very contented-looking President

Communist Party Congress has Li Langing, a reform-minded been a personal triumph. Behind him a smiling Li Peng. who has kept his second-ranking position and looks set to head the parliament when he steps down as prime minister.

China's new Number 3 followed, the perennially glum Zhu Rongji, who is almost certainly to be the next prime minister. Mr Zhu is the man who tamed China's rampont inflation and will now be in charge of implementing Mr Jiang's blueprint for reform of state-

owned enterprises. Li Ruihuan and Hu Jintao. both party stalwarts, kept their seats. So all eyes were on who would till the vacant slots left by Mr Liu and Qiao Shi, the spectacularly ousted adversaries of Mr Jiang. Step forward the newcomers: Wei Jianxing,

Jiang Zemin, for whom the 15th anti-corruption supremo, and vice-prime minister.

Mr Jiang has emerged from the conference in a far more powerful position than many predicted when the patriarch. Deng Xiaoping, died in February. Although he had to make some compromises, he has elevated many of his preferred candidates to more influential posts.

Next year's retirement of Mr. Qiao as head of the National People's Congress to make way for Mr Li is widely seen as a step backwards for gradual political reform in China. Mr Qiao had argued forcibly for a stronger role for China's largely rubberstamp parliament, and the importance of establishing the "rule of law". Mr Li, a policecal hardliner, is not cast in quita-

Wealth and power split new superpower into three

In China, all people are equal; but some are more equal than others. The divide between rich and poor may be the biggest threat to stability in the next global superpower. Teresa Poole in Peking looks at the fault-lines of a nation that seems to be becoming three countries as economic reform takes hold.

It takes almost two days by train to travel from the glass-fronted skyscrapers of Shanghai to the impoverished north-west province of Ningxia, a journey from China's style capital to a part of the country which economic reform and opening up seems to have left behind.

The feeling of travelling back in time as one crosses China is stark. In Shanghai, the benefits and challenges are self-evident after a decade of breakneck growth: a welldressed and well-heeled middle class, gleaming shopping malls, gridlocked roads, and a massive building site on every corner.

By the time one arrives in Zhengzhou, Henen Province, right in the middle of China, the architecture of the new buildings is utilitarian, private cars around 90 million floating are fewer, and a quarter of the workforce is still tied to the ailing state textile industry.

Journey on to Yinchuan. capital of north-west Ningxia province, home of China's Hui Muslim minority, and one is back in yesterday's China. The city's department store offers the sort of old-fashioned clothes worn in Shanghai in the early Eighties: there is little new construction, and no sign of foreign investment. In the south of the province, a sizeable number of people still live in caves dug out of the hillsides, with no electricity or running water.

Such is a snapshot picture of China in the week that the ruling Communist Party ends its 15th Party Congress. China's own economists look at their nation in three slices: the East (comprising Peking, Shanghai, and the coastal provinces), the Centre (which cuts a swathe through the middle and up to the north-east), and the West (the nine most far-flung provinces).

Historically, life was always easier for those living near the coast, but the huge imbalance in the way foreign investment has been received since economic reform started in 1979 has created a regional wealth gap unlike anything seen in China before. The east contains one-third of the country's pop- ment policies to case the imulation but benefits from fourfifths of the foreign investment that has been ploughed into China since 1979.

. In terms of standards of living, trade and industry, and

prospects for the future, the China shown on our map begins to look more like three different countries, "Yes, according to people's income and the degree of economic advancement you can say that," said Liang Youcai, deputy director of the forecasting department of the State Information Centre, "People in the East can live comparatively well, while many in the West still live under the poverty level."

Mr Liang is among many who have pointed out the obvious dangers of such regional wealth gaps. Two years ago he told the central government that if the situation persisted "social disturbances might be incurred, and economic development be impeded."

By any economic measure one cares to use, the disparities between the East. Centre and West are sharp. Bad transportation, decrepit industry, and difficult climates put the inland and western provinces at such an initial disadvantage. that they cannot compete.

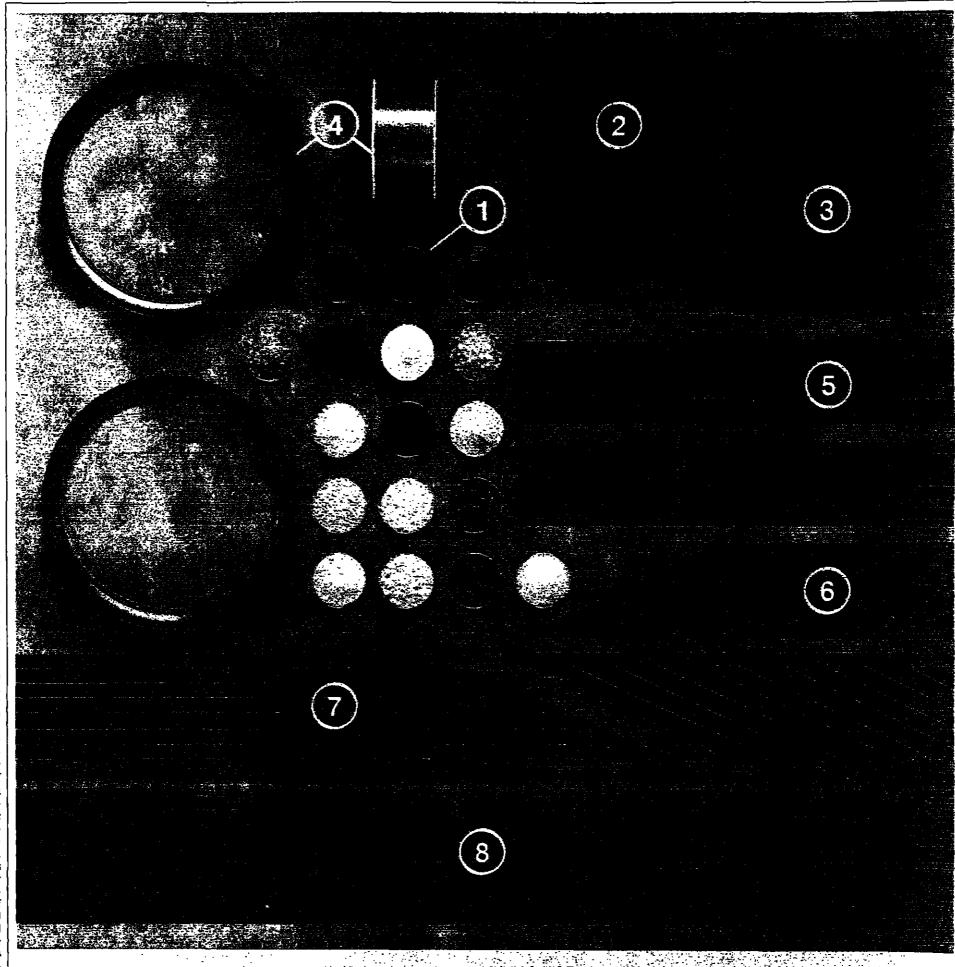
So it is no surprise that standards of living are lowest in the impoverished West. There, the annual expenditure per person in rural areas in 1996 was just 1.149 yuan (£86).

Peasants have already voted with their feet, the disparities being the most severe for rural folk. China's army of workers behave like a barometer of regional economic prospects, fleeing the countryside and small townships, where underemployment is chronic. The more timid drift towards the big cities in their own or nearby provinces, but the adventurous think nothing of journeying more than 1,000 miles towards the coastal provinces and cities, where they labour on building sites and in export-led foreign-in-

vested factories.

This multi-tiered massive shift of population adds to the government's separate concern of how to maintain social stability in cities as it launches a massive reform and privatisation of state-owned enterprises. Reports of demonstrations by unemployed or unpaid state enterprise workers are commonplace these days. Those workers are mainly concentrated in the West and Centre. In the East, the economy is more advanced, the government has income and even if there are unemployed state enterprise workers, the government can guarantee their minimum living conditions." said Mr Liang.

How long then for the rest of China to close the gap with the East? A very, very long time, despite central governbalance, "Judging from the whole situation, it is not possible for the Centre and West to eatch up with the East even ofter another 20 years," said Mr



MOST GERMAN RECIPES PRODUCE TOUGH, INEDIBLE RESULTS THIS ONE IS NO EXCEPTION.

Ask a German for his favourite recipe and you won't be surprised if it's inedible. Nevertheless, we bring you this highlight from the Continental tyre engineers' recipe book. At least you know this dish is meant to be rubbery.

- 1. First make your basic rubber compound using natural and synthetic rubber, sulphur, resin, aromatic oil, carbon black, stearic acid, cobalt stearate, wax and a unique blend of vulcanisation and anti-oxidant chemicals. These are probably not the sort of ingredients you have at home - unless you're a Continental tyre engineer. Mix, then test (but don't taste) for consistency.
- 2. Make an airtight inner tiner by rolling butyl rubber into a wide thin layer and trim. This will ensure your tyre cises nicely and doesn't go flat.
- 3. In a catendering machine, make body plies to form the tyre's carcass. The carcass gives the tyre its strength and also cushions you, even on roads lumpler and bumpler than German custard.
- With brass-coated steel cords, form a circle to make the tyre beads. These will make sure your tyre sits securely on the wheel nime.
- 5. Take two strips of rubber and form the
- added earlier help reduce the harmful effects of ozone and frie sun. (Que engineers hate to see their oride and joy. looking anything less than perfect.)
- 6. Now cover brass-coated steel with rubber to make belt piles. Place under the tread, to provide longer life and a better shape. Not what you normally associate with German cooking.
- 7: Make the cap piles by embedding nylon in rubber to form a bandage over the belt plies and under the tread. This improves high speed handling and stability.

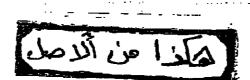
8. To make the tread, add chemicals and stir into the basic rubber compound. Heat and pess through an extruder.

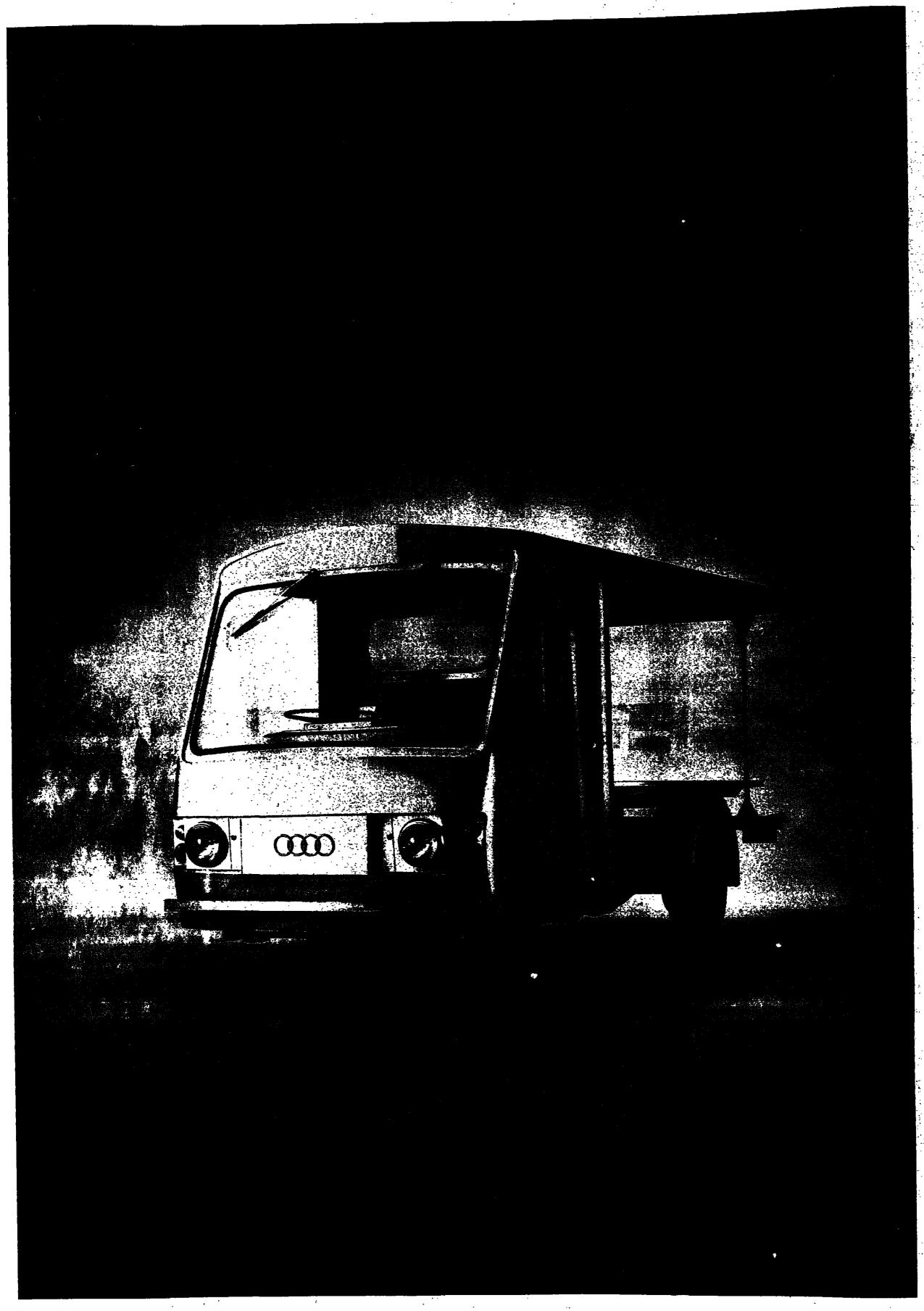
You'll now need your tyre building machines. Combine the bead, inner liner, carcass, sidewalls, belt plies and tread. Spray the outside of the tyre with lubricard and the Inside with siticon.

Place in a vulcanising mould and cook for 10 minutes at 150°C and 12 bar of pressure Remove and leave to cool. You've now made a very tasty Continental tyre.

Of course, if you can't be bothered with all the preparation, you can always get a takeaway from your local tyre dealer...







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Bomb blasts threat to Bosnian peace

Dozens were injured when a bomb shook the Bosnian Croat-held sector of Mostar on Thursday night. It was another sign of tension in the divided town between Croats and Bosnian Moslems, which have been exacerbated by the elections.

The bomb went off outside a police station in the western part of Mostar, sending a ball of flame into the air. A crater about a yard deep marked the site. A mushroom cloud of dust settled on buildings and vehicles over a wide area.

UN spokesman Alex Ivanko said the authorities assumed the blast was a car bomb. "There hasn't been a blast like this really since Dayton," said Liam McDowall, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo.

A Mostar hospital said 30 people were treated for injuries and three of them were in a serious condition. A man

was paralysed from the waist down and had to be evacuated by Nato helicopter for emergency treatment in Croatia, said Dr Zoran Antunovic, the surgeon on duty at the time. He was buried under a wall that collapsed due to the explosion." Dr Antunovic said. Three children - including a one-month-old baby - were among those who suffered lesser injuries from flying debris and glass.

The bomb is the latest event in simmering tensions between the Croat and Moslem communities in Mostar. Tensions were already high after Croat leaders came close to boycotting municipal elections held last weekend. And Moslem leaders expressed anger this week when Croat officials said they might renege on a promise to drop plans to unify three predominantly Croat districts in western Mostar.

Moslems and Croats fought 10-month war in 1993-94 that devastated the city and left it divided into Moslem and Croat sectors. The two sides re-

against the Serbs in 1994 and formed a federation covering half of Bosnia but relations in

Mostar remain tense. Despite millions of dollars in reconstruction aid and three years of diplomatic efforts nimed at reunifying the town, Mostar is still strictly parti-

tioned along ethnic lines. The police station was run by the joint Muslim-Croat police force established in July after months of arduous negotiation. "I think that this was an attack against the joint police in Mostar," said Sefkija Dziho. the Muslims' deputy minister for internal affairs in the region.

A spokesman for the international community's High Representative to Bosnia condemned the blast: "This was a senseless attack with a clear aim to destabilise the situation in the city at what is an extremely sensitive time."

UN spokesman Ivanko said: "It is extremely disturbing that almost two years after the signing of the Dayton peace agreement certain individuals continue to use barbaric tacties newed a military alliance to get their point across."

The arch-manipulator of Serbia triumphs over people power

At the beginning of this year, Slobodan Milosevic's hold on power in Serbia appeared to be collapsing as protesters filled the streets of Belgrade. But the opposition, then superficially united, has split ahead of tomorrow's elections. Steve Crawshaw reports on the arch-manipulator of enemies.

"One for all," says the poster that gazes out everywhere in the centre of Belgrade. The accompanying portrait is of a grave-looking man in a beard his former sworn enemy, has with a distinct resemblance to . not been fully explained. Mr

Nicholas II, Russia's last tsar. Even by the standards of election propaganda, the slogan for Vuk Draskovic - once Serbia's wild-maned Rasputin, now the would-be dignified president - is misleading. Not all for one, nor one for all. Mr Draskovic has quarrelled bitterly with the two other members of the opposition troika which spearheaded huge popular demonstrations in Belgrade and across Serbia at the beginning of this year. United. they were powerful; divided, they are not.

Zoran Djindjic and Vesna Pesic, with whom Mr Draskovic shared a platform during the opposition rallies in December and January, are boycotting Serbian parliamentary and pres-



Siobodan Milosevic

idential elections tomorrow. Mr Draskovic - after an apparently cosy meeting with Serbia's brilliant manipulator, Slobodan Milosevic - has broken ranks, and is selling himself as Serbia's latest saviour. The opposition, which at the beginning of the year was more powerful than ever before, has stumbled back into the political quagnire, while Mr Milosevic watches from the sidelines. For Mr Milosevic - who has been written off at regular intervals since he came to power in 1987 - the scenario is

reassuringly familiar. Mr Milosevic is not himself a candidate in tomorrow's polls. He is now Yugoslav president, after serving the maximum two terms as president of Serbia.

Unsurprisingly, Mr Milosevic has taken the real power with him: the Yugoslav presidency used to be powerless when Mr Milosevic was president of Serbia: now, the Serbian presidency looks set to be meaningless, as power has moved to the office of President Milosevic of Yugoslavia.

The uninspiring Zoran Lilic, candidate of the Socialists (former Communists), until recently president of rump Yugoslavia, hopes to do a jobswap with his political patron, becoming Serbian president. The other main of candidate, apart from Mr Draskovic, is the far-right Vojislav Seselj. In short: unappealing prospects all around.

The meeting between Mr Milosevic and Mr Draskovic, Draskovic - who has dramatically repackaged himself, with a short back and sides and a neatly trimmed beard emerged triumphant, after apparently being charmed by Mr Milosevic. The pro-government Serbian media started giving Mr Draskovic favourable coverage, for the first time. In a country where conspiracy theories are two a penny, everybody has a different theory; even the least conspiracy-minded analysts insist that some secret deal must have been struck. One suggestion is that he might become Serbian prime minister, following the parliamentary elections, also held today.

When hundreds of thousands filled the streets, Mr Milosevic made some retreats. The opposition was able to take power in major cities, including Belgrade. But none is better able than Mr Milosevic to win a chess-game when checkmate seems inevitable. The only crucial requirement for the opposition was that it should stay united until Mr Milosevic was gone. The opposition promptly started tearing itself apart - and Mr Milosevic could rejoice.

Mr Djindjic became mayor of Belgrade - and thus gained a higher profile than Mr Draskovic, to the latter's annoyance. Mr Draskovic, meanwhile, who had briefly renounced nationalism, started to bang the nationalist drum once more, mixed in with a strong dose of monarchism.

Cracks in the regime in the neighbouring republic of Montenegro - the other remaining member of the Yugoslav federation - could mean greater difficulties for President Milosevic. His main ally there is under threat, as never before, Even so, lew in Serbia are ready to predict an early end for the man who has re-invented himself so many times before. The optimism of just eight months ago now seems to come from another era.





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13/DIPLOMACY

The Locarno Grand Reception Room at the Foreign Office

Secret service remains closed

there is one arm of Britain's overseas representation which most certainly is not: MI6, or overseas intelligence-gatherers, or spies, are not having an open day, nor will tourists be invited into their headquarters to

In some ways, SIS has less of a problem with external image than the FCO. Its brandnew post-modernist building in Vauxhall Cross in south London expresses its soul with peculiar accuracy: mysterious, multifaceted and muted, with a discreet cluster of aerials

The Foreign and Common- and dishes tucked away on the working harder at fighting the wealth Office may be opening roof. Its public persona is set for proliferation of weapons of its doors to the public gaze, but it by James Bond of the films, dashing, romantic and cheeky.

The reality is probably a little closer to the James Bond of Her Majesty's Secret Intelli- Ian Fleming's books: upper gence Service (SIS). Britain's class, with a drink problem and a fragmented personal life. John Le Carre's books show a similar, and less warm - if just as romantic - picture.

SIS has made a number of attempts to modernise for the post-Cold War era. Newer recruits come from many social backgrounds and women are increasingly represented. Its tasks have been extended to include "drugs and thugs" - counternarcotics work and a focus on criminals. It is also said to be

oping its economic espionage.

But then nobody really knows, because it does not have any responsibility to explain itself. It gives regular lunches for media editors, and that is about it. This air of mystery is some-

thing that SIS cultivates, and regards almost as a weapon in itself. It is still highly regarded around the world, and in both the Balkans and the Caucasus, for instance, people ascribe to it far more influence than it possesses. But then perhaps that is the point: the image is more important than the reality.

-Andrew Marshall



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Just another normal day of sex and drugs at the Foreign Office

Foreign Secretary in May, Robin Cook showed he meant business. Within a fortnight he had produced a "Mission Statement," setting out the Foreign Office's role on the eve of a new millenium. Then came public hearings to launch a review of Britain's strategic security and defence requirements, outlines of a new Ethical Foreign Policy, followed by stricter guidelines for British arms exports. But for sheer spectacle nothing matched yesterday's "Open Day," as 1,000 invited guests from around the country sixth formers, school careers advisers and community groups --made some of Whitehall's most discreet and stately corridors

They weren't there for fun; nor was the preponderance of darker skins and female voices accidental. Mr Cook had a double purpose: to attract more women and ethnic minorities into the service, and demonstrate the Foreign Office was free of its starchy past.

At times the juxtaposition of old and new was positively jarring. The setting was the splendid Durbar Court, encrusted with marble and mosaics, phys-

Office, and named after the durbar, or formal reception, held by maharajahs or British Governors to mark a great occasion of state. Yesterday Foreign and Commonwealth Office set out stalls promoting its thoroughly modern wares: immigration and human rights, export promotion, even the FCO's Internet site.

A few shrinking violets stayed away, among them of course Her Majesty's intelligence services. But the presentable face of British foreign policy was out in force - from the European Union Presidency specialists to the enviroment, science and energy department to the division dealing with drugs and international crime. "Yes, it's all real," assured

Clare Fallon, currently assigned to the department but hoping for a posting to the Caribbean, as she displayed a selection of seized illicit substances, cannabis resin, ecstasy pills, a bag of crack cocaine, and a tiny brick of diamorphine base used for heroin, displayed like dead butterflies in small black plas-

Next door, the ghosts of

ical heart of the vanished India British India past — a Mar- enough. Women account for quess Dalhousie, Governor General from 1848 and 1856, and a jewelled and sabred Eckbal-ud-Dowlab, unsuccessful pretender to the throne of Oudh in the 1830s, who thereafter lived out for 40 years a saintly life in Arabia - bemusedly gazed down as the high tech rites of the late 20th century unfolded before them.

> Two live satellite video conferences had been laid on for the packed roomful of guests; the first with the High Commissioner and his staff in Singapore, the second with Ekaterinburg to mark the formal re-opening of a British consulate in the west Siberian city after an interval of nearly 80 years. A remarkable occasion - so remarkable indeed that Mr Cook ventured a few carefully practised words of Russian.

> That done, the Foreign Secretary invited a fortunate few into his office, to make his point in person. "We need more women and minorities, and a Foreign Office that really representative of modern Britain, in which merit's the only crite-

And the problem is real

only 35 per cent of Foreign Office's 6,000 staff, compared with a general civil service average of over 50 per cent. At the most senior grades, the disparity is worse. Of Britain's 154 ambassadors and heads of mission around the world, only 9 are women. Ethnic minorities are even less in evidence, just 3.3 per cent of UK-based staff at home and overseas. Not one has climbed to the rank of head of department or ambas-

Were the setting Washington instead of London, the solution would be affirmative action, even the dreaded "Q-word", quotas. Britain vows it will not includee in such gerrymandering. "What we want is more women and minorities applying," one official said, "so that more stand a chance of selection." And some old barriers are crumbling. In 1997, for the first time, Oxbridge did not supply a majority at the "policy entry point" as the fast stream for

high fliers is now known. And so the show rolled on. Sir John Cole, head of the Diplomatic Service had provided the welcome. "Don't pay too much attention to me." he

retire as the FO's senior civil servant. "We want you to see what the thousands of people who work here do." A diplomat's life was challenging and exciting, but "not all roses," he said. Many postings were uncomfortable, and "some are dangerous." After three hours the Foreign Office's most extraordinary morning of modern times was over. "This is not a stuffy, hidebound place, full of men in pinstripe suits sitting as if with umbrellas up their spines," Mr Cook said in parting. "I hope we shook some of your stereotypes, and that some

of you will apply to work here." And some may, albeit for different reasons. "I really love the interiors" said one girl, as she surveyed the panelling and chandeliers of Mr Cook's own vast office and the window from which Lord Grey watched the lights go out over Europe. For Anthea Bright, a 16 year old schoolgirl from Wembley. "the travel and the work abroad would be great." Everyone though seemed to have had a great time, not least the diplomats who threw the bash. Is the FO stuffy? Not a bit of it.

–Rupert Comwell

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He dresses the world, but Britain won't pay the price for Hussein Chalayan



On Thursday, London Fashion Week kicks off - and all eyes will be on Swinging London once more. British fashion rules the world, and more overseas buyers than ever are expected to attend the collections.

Yet last week, Hussein Chalayan, one of our hottest designer exports, was without a sponsor for his show. Tamsin Blanchard, Fashion Editor, reports

Hussein Chalayan, the Turkish-Cypriot horn, London-ruised and Central Saint Martin's educated designer, is one of three reasons overseas buyers and the press will bother stopping off at London Fashion Week, between Milan, Paris and New York, Along with Alexander McQueen and Antonio Berardi, Chalayan is responsible for making London swing. He sells in the UK, France, Italy, the United States. Hong Kong and Japan, and was nominated as designer of the year at last year's British Fashion Awards.

Since his show last spring. Chalayan has been seeking a sponsor for his spring/summer 1998 collection, scheduled for next Saturday night. But this week, after appreaching UK drinks companies and other potential sponsors, he was left without anyone to foot the bill - and staging a fashion show, as any designer knows, does not come cheap. So with no support from British business forthcoming, he turned for help to the land of his birth, and secured some financial support from the North Cyprus Tourism Centre.

It is still a fraction of the amount he needs, but the show will go on, albeit in a "There is always a need for sponsorship."



Hussein Chalayan: Lack of support

smaller, more intimate form. "It seemed like the only place that would give me support at the last minute," says Chalayan. However, the British Fashion Council has since helped by giving Chalayan a venue

While he has backing for the manufacture of his collections, his business partners are not millionaires; fashion designers are usually left to their own devices to raise funds for putting on their shows. A sum of around £45,000 is the minimum needed to rent a venue, lighting, stage designers, hair and make-up, pay for invitations. security and, of course, models. However, if they like the designer, many models will work for an outfit in lieu of a fee. Big fashion houses like Chanel will spend closer to £500,000 for a single show.

Previously, Chalavan has been sponsored by Absolut and Nokia. "They sponsor you fresh from college, but they don't realise the cycle doesn't end there," he says.

Chalayan, along with our other leading designers, sees his ideas plagiarised by high street stores, but gets little back in return. While Clements Ribeiro have found salvation with a deal with Dorothy Perkins, and Pearce Fionda landed a two-way deal with Debenhams that saved them from bankruptcy last year.

Every season, there is a battle to get a share in the sponsorship pie. Even our most famous export, Alexander McQueen, has seen deals fall through at the last minute. His show will be sponsored by ICI, which is building the stage, and American Express. Janet Fischgrund, spokeswoman for Mc-Queen says: "sponsorship is an enormous issue for young designers, it's impossible to fund these shows on your own."

Antonio Berardi, feted by American Vogue as the Next Big Thing, has sponsorship from Courvoisier. This season the designer will also come out at the end of the show wearing a pair of designer specs, courtesy of David Clulow. However, sponsorship for next season remains

Priyesh Shah, Berardi's business partner, said yesterday, "It's crazy we still have to rely on sponsorship. Companies don't understand the importance of fashion as a medium ... yet the kudos of a lot of British companies like Marks & Spencer and The Burton Group relies on the hyping of Cool Britannia.

Simon Ward, administrator for the British Fashion Council, said yesterday, "Hussein Chalayan is one of our major names; we're going to make sure he has a show. He is an important part of the resurgence of London." But the BFC is not a sponsorship marriage broker. Clearly one of the things we excel at is new talent ... It is the new names like Hussein Chalayan that have brought the focus back to



Object of desire: Hussein Chalayan's simple elegance is a firm favourite with fashion pundits

How London became 'God's gift to fashion'

The grandfather of British fashion, Roland Klein, 59, has seen London fashion move full circle. He moved to the capital to learn English in the Sixties, from a job assisting Karl Lagerfeld in Paris. And now he is seeing London explode a second time.

In the days of Mary Quant's mini skirts, there were not shows as such. It was not until 1975 that Annette Worsley Taylor set up the London Designer Collections, a group of young designers who showed their clothes on rails in hotels around London. Then the shows were about selling clothes. "We didn't have all of the razzmatazz that we have today. It was purely a selling exhibition," Klein said. "Now its all turned into a circus. There's a lot of hype, not necessarily turning into cash."

Klein gave up showing his classic, grown-up collections on the catwalks last season. His selling figures did not suffer.

Like many designers, he has been selling to store buyers for the past three weeks: the catwalk show is not the place where orders are made. The business of selling takes place in the designers' showroom in the run up to fashion

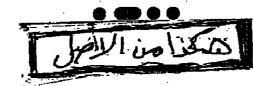
Ten years ago, London experienced a similar hype to that of today, with the spotlight on names such as Body Map, John Galliano, Helen Storey, and Katharine Hamnett. But the broubaba was short-lived.

The Eighties did little for the commercial sense of designers who boasted that they were creative geniuses, not business men. The international press and buyers lost interest in London and Britain's biggest names looked to Paris for a platform for their work.

Katharine Hamnett, John Galliano, and Vivienne Westwood moved to show in Paris in the late Eighties when reces-

sion hit and buyers could afford to visit only one venue. In 1994, the British Fashion Council, headed by Clinton Silver promoted New Generation Designers, sponsored by Marks & Spencer. The new talent, spearheaded by Alexander Mo-Queen, has focused attention back on London. Last season, overseas press doubled, and buyer numbers rose 30 per cent.

But Roland Klein worries for the future of the young names. "The British Pashion Council wants the hype and it certainly brings a lot of people to London . But a lot of the names on the schedule should not be showing on the catwalks. They go from art college to their own collection and to the catwalk in the space of six months. A lot of them are sponsored and really they would be better off putting the money into their businesses. They're doing it all the wrong way



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the world over for being at the one of the few magazines that cutting edge of modern culture, can claim to be globally influential. The New York Times recently called it 'the primary chronicle of youth culture'. while Giorgio Armani calls it a

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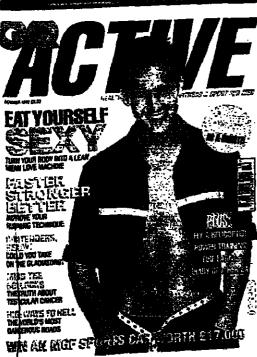
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Tatler

The October issue of Tatler catches up with Christie Brinkley, the covergirl's cover girl, and goes inside her Hamptons home. The magazine tracks down the Hollywood Britpack, while Henry Dent-Brocklehurst and fiancee Lili Maltese dress up in butter-soft, sharpcut, sexy and sleek leather. Plus, is your sofa more a hit-list than It-list - Tatler assesses the British designers who will help your house look hip, and a tribute to Sir James Goldsmith, d ynamic tycoon, dynastic family man and would-be statesman, through the eyes of his daughter Isabel.

October sees the 100th issue of GQ and celebrates in style with Paul Whitehouse. David Bowie dons Paul Smith, Reservoir Dog Michael Marsden explains how Hollywood's leading hound is creating a new breed of trouble, and Tyra Banks goes back to basics. Plus, Paul Newman's motor-racing passion, the City addicts chasing the dragon and promotion, and the best blather from the last 100 issues of GQ.

The Face

The team behind Trainspotting are back with a fine romance. The Face goes on the set of A Life Less Ordinary in Utah, and has a heart-to-heart with the film's stars, Ewan McGregor and Cameron Diaz. Plus: Embrace, the rising British rock band; Hiromix, the 20-year-old Japanese schoolgirl whose titillating pics of her friends is causing a revolution; Lil' Kim; board art; John Leguizamo; Photek; drag kings; and an ex-clusive interview with the Dalai Lama. Sort of...

GQ Active

The health, fitness and sport for men, brings the reader the ultimate eat yourself sexy plan. David Coulthard reveals his hitech work-out which is as advanced as the McLaren he drives. Plus, ways you can improve your running technique, the GQ Active trainer top ten, and how to take on The Gladiators. The October issue of GQ Active comes with a snecial edition 256 page guide to Daring Days Out in the UK.

Arena

Exclusive interview with, and sensational photographs of Elizabeth Hurley, the original posh spice. The women who wore The Dress tells Arena the fame game isn't funny anymore. Plus: climbing Everest the hard way; Teddy Sherringham's new boots and panties; what they don't teach you at SAS school; how to tell if you've got a small penis; and the problems with Naomi Campbell, Jimmy McGovern and the Cherokee Jeep.

Vanity Fair

Vanity Pair features a special tribute to Diana. Princess of Wales, looking back over her last summer, whether flying to Bosnia to crusade against land mines or finding romance on the Riviera. The decade-long partnership of Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana is explored, the affinity of Weegee, the 1940s crime photographer, for the underbelly of New York is examined, and with virtually every icon of the British stage appearing in an eight-hour, \$13 million television adaptation of A Dance to the Music of Time, Vanity Fair predicts a revival of Anthony Powellis masterwork.

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16/NEWS

Mi murder case may be solved, 20 years on

Detectives could be on the brink of finding the murderer of a hitch-hiker whose body was found by the M1

Barbara Mayo was discovered in Ault Hucknall Wood, Derbyshire, a mile and a half from junction 29 of the motorway, on 18 October 1970. The 24-year-old student teacher's killer has never been traced, although the investigation into her death was never officially closed.

When it was launched it was the biggest probe ever undertaken by a British force, with 120 officers involved

The Derbyshire force has now reopened an incident room at Chesterfield police station following what it described as a "major new develop-

Police last night refused to disclose the nature of the fresh information. but will announce it on Monday along with a hotline number for the public

Assistant Chief Constable Don Dovaston said: "This investigation has never closed since Barbara's body was found in Derbyshire in the autumn

"We will be releasing important new information which may help us bring the killer to justice."

Police are expected to renew their appeal for sightings of Barbara, who was last seen carrying a bag with a distinctive elephant motif.

She had apparently set off from her home in London at around 11am on October 12 to hitchhike to Catterick. Police believe she was killed

More than 47,000 statements were taken during the first four years of the inquiry into her death.

Police interviewed 126,300 people. checked more than 72,000 Morris Traveller vans and took 78,000 calls in their incident room.

But, despite checking the records of 28,000 criminals and following up more than 76,000 leads, they never found Barbara's killer.

Seven years ago officers established similarities between her murder and that of Jacki Ansell-Lamb, who was killed in Cheshire in March of the



Looking to the future: Robin Gueriler, director of Taskforce 2000 Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Industry must pay for 2000 timebomb

The Government insisted yesterday that it is taking the "Millennium Bomb" - which could paralyse computers after December 31 1999 seriously. But Barbara Roche, the minister in charge, also emphasised that industry, not government, must pay. Yet the CBI seems to be playing the issue quietly too, reports Charles Arthur, Science Editor.

"It is a huge problem. And there is so little time left to check and fix and test our systems," the industry minister Barbara Roche told The Independent yesterday. She also insisted that "Industry - not the taxpayer - must bear the cost of putting it right."

But it also appears that industry is only slowly beginning to think about a problem whose deadline cannot be moved, and now lies just a few hundred working days away. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has resisted calls for the topic of the "Millennium Bomb" to be included in the talks at its annual conference starting on 9 November in Birmingham - even though Philip Wright, on the CBI's "year 2000" group, thinks business understanding of the importance of the topic is "patchy".

The Government was stung by the Independent's exclusive report in which Robin Guenier, head of Taskforce 2000 warned that the effects of not correcting the problem would be "devastating". He insisted that he needs more funding to get the message across to industry.

But Ms Roche said that the Department of Trade and Industry had already taken action by encouraging the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and computing companies to set up Taskforce 2000 in the first place.

She met Mr Guenier last Monday and "had a very positive neeting discussing what action needs to be taken now." She added: "I am extremely concerned about this issue, and the report of the meeting is wholly inaccurate." Mr Guenier said that after he warned Ms Roche he "got no response. It's all woolly, I get no feel that anybody believes

Ms Roche hit back by saying that "funding for Taskforce 2000 is a complete red herring" because it is industry rather than the Government which has to bear the cost. However, she did not mention how much money the Government has committed to checking and updating its very old and enormously complex computer systems for tax collection, hospitals and social security.

The Millennium Bomb arises because some computer programs use only two digits to represent the year meaning that after 1999 they might think the next year is 1900, not 2000. Eradicating the fault cannot be automated, raising huge problems for any organisation which relies



Conservation victory for toads and news

Conservationists yesterday claimes Britain's most important sites for toads? and newts from being ploughed up.
It is understood that English Na

ture, which control Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), is to draw up a new agreement with the farmer, Justin Harmer, who owns Offham Marshes near Lewes, East Sussex. Friends of the Earth (FoE) said that the move was made following pressure: on Michael Meacher, environment

minister, to intervene. The marshes are adjacent to Offham Down, another SSSI also. owned by Mr Harmer, which became the focus of a row during the general election after it was ploughed up to, take advantage of European subsidies to grow flax.

Matt Phillips, of Friends of the Earth, said the reprieve for Offhane, Marshes was good news for wildlife a: celebratory picnic would be held tomorrow. The site is home to one of: the most significant populations of toads, frogs and newts in the country.

But, he said, 300 out of the 6,500 SSSIs in Britain were damaged every ... year and there needed to be better legal protection for the country's mest important wild places. "We want to make sure that nothing like this can happen again."

Another SSSI in Porth Ceirian Gwynedd, has just been damaged after a management agreement was a lowed to lapse. An unusuai feature of the remote coastal site was a sand dune perched on the cliff top where top soil has now been dumped.

A Department of the Environment spokeswoman said the Mr Meacher has asked officials to begin open-ended discussions with interested parties about what changes to the law might. be necessary to promote better management of SSSIs and increase protection for them?

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Teachers set for clash with ministers over inflation-busting pay claim

Teaching unions say that without a substantial salary rise there is no hope of resolving the recruitment crisis.

But ministers, already under similar pressure from nurses and headteachers, are calling for restraint. Lucy Ward

The significant gap between teachers' demands for higher pay and government insistence on moderation became clear yesterday as both sides published evidence to the profession's pay review body.

In a joint submission to the School Teachers' Review Body. three of the main teaching unions called for a substantial increase "significantly above that required merely to keep pace with inflation and average earnings increases".

Without such a rise, which would need to be fully funded by the Government, there would be no hope of resolving the growing crisis in teacher recruitment, the unions said.

The National Association of

Head Teachers issued the same by union leaders. warning last week when it sub-



David Blunkett: Calling for a 'moderate' increase

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, however, called on the pay review body to recommend a "moderate overall increase" in line with other public-sector staff and "within the overall requirement for pay restraint". He said it was 'untrue and unhelpful" to describe the recommendation as a pay freeze - a charge levelled

Mr Blunkett said parents

mitted a claim for a 10 per cent would wish the Government to "get the balance right" in dividing an extra £1bn won for education in the summer budget between pay and other needs

such as books and equipment. The crisis in teacher supply has developed despite warnings to the previous government and the review body, according to the submission by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the National Union of Teachers and the Profes-

sional Association of Teachers.

Applications for primary teacher training have fallen by 11 per cent this year compared with last, despite an increase of almost 8 per cent in total university applications. Recruitment to secondary teacher training was below target for the third year running in 1996-7.

Applications for postgraduate certificate of education courses starting this month were also down by around 2 per cent compared with last year.

Potential recruits are being lured elsewhere by higher wages, including graduate starting salaries, unions say. Meanwhile, the age profile of the profession is worsening. Latest figures show that among teachers in 1995 fewer than one m ten men and one in five women were under 30.

The unions' submission also calls for a change to teachers' conditions of service to ensure staff are no longer required to teach classes of over 30 pupils. But the issue has caused a rift with the Association of Teachers and Lecturers', which has submitted a separate pay claim. The ATL shares concerns over pay but believes ministers, who are committed to reducing class sizes over time, are unlikely to hand teachers the right to walk out if numbers grow too high.

Man charged with New breast cancer murdering Rachel detector launched

A man charged with murdering Rachel Barraclough, 18, was remanded in custody for a week when he appeared before West Yorkshire magistrates yesterday.

Stephen Hughes, 46 - the father of Rachel's boyfriend, Karl - of Wakefield, was charged with murdering Rachel on waste ground near Wakefield between 4 and 7 September. No application for bail was made.

The body of the student, who lived with her parents in Bradford, was found 13 days ago with multiple stab wounds. Rachel, lived with her parents, Malcolm, 54, and Hilary, 39, in Bankfoot, Bradford. She had an elder brother, Paul, and elder sister, Jane.

A pioneering new technique which can detect breast cancer tumours that might otherwise be missed was launched yesterday at a London hospital.

The treatment, called a scintimammography, uses a radioactive tracer injected into the body to highlight any cancers in the breast which can then be identified on a scan. Poctors will use the technique if there is any doubt that cancerous cells may have gone undetected by a mammogram scan or other tests.

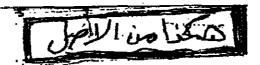
The Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, London, which helped pioneer the technique, is the first in the country to offer it to patients. About 30 hospitals should be using it in the next two months.

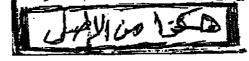
Stephen Lawrence hearing to be open

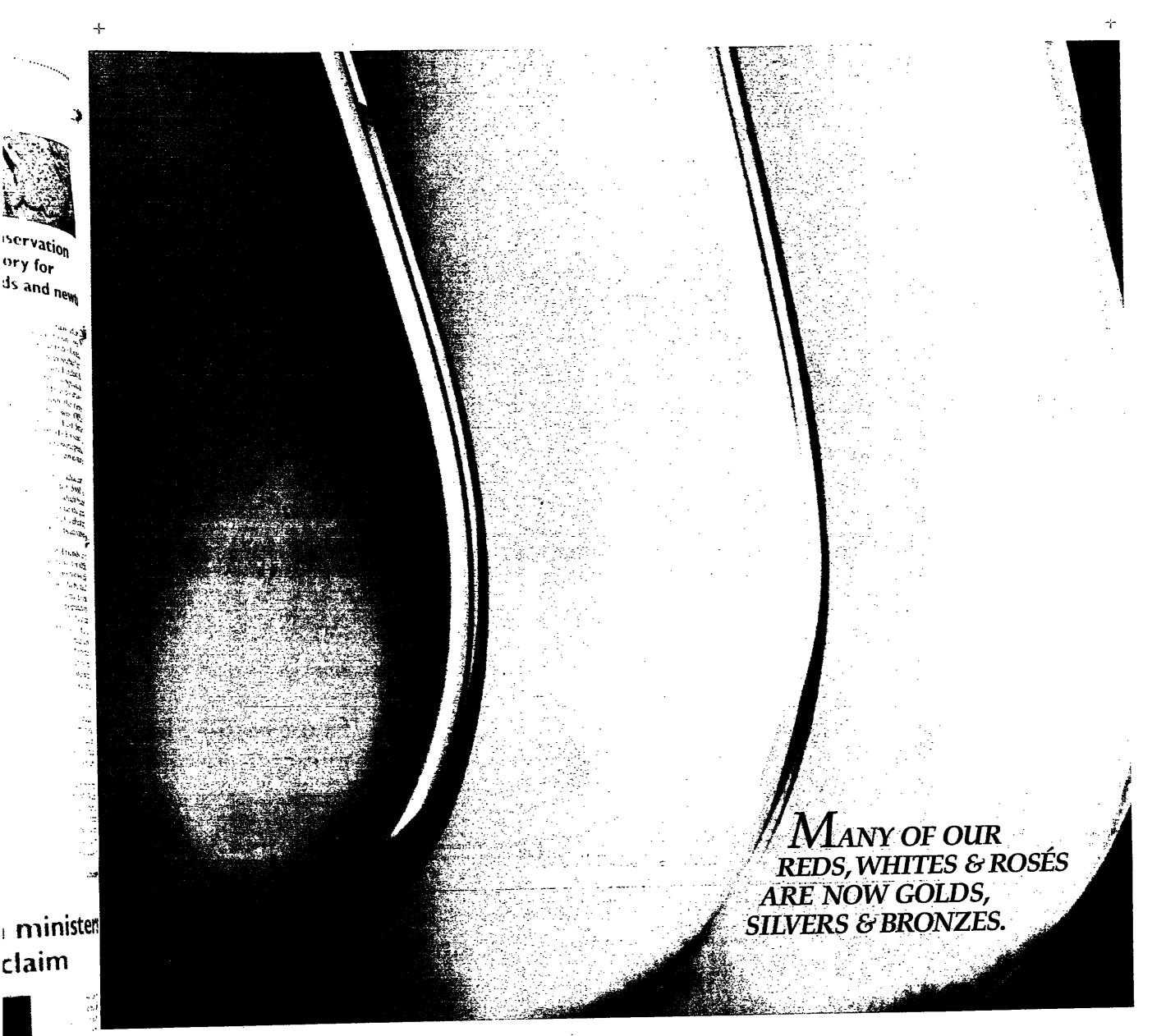
Members of the public will be allowed to attend the preliminary hearing for the inquiry into the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence, who was stabbed to death at a bus stop in south

The hearing will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday 8 October and will be held by former High Court judge Sir William Macpherson of Cluny at Woolwich Public Hall, Woolwich, south-east London.

The purpose of the hearing is to explain the procedures of the inquiry and to consider whether legal representation at the inquiry should be publicly









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18/ARTS AND MEDIA

Opera drama as director of ENO leaves post

Dennis Marks has resigned as head of the English National Opera. The sudden decision has taken the world of opera by surprise. David Lister looks at what might lie behind the decision to quit the troubled . institution.

The decision by Dennis Marks to leave his position as general director of the English National Opera marks the end of a four-year period which has seen the company constantly criticised and failing to match the reputation it gained in the Eighties.

Most particularly, it reflects the failure of Mr Marks to achieve his dream of moving the company from its home at the London Coliseum into a new purpose-built theatre.

The ENO has applied for lottery money to move into a

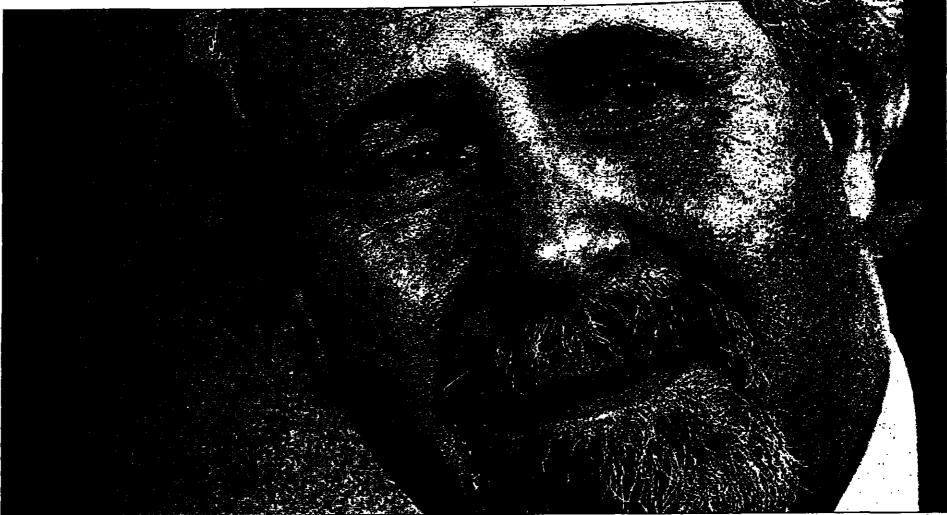
WŎ.

been attacked by former arts minister David Mellor and by members of the ENO's own audience. Though renovations are needed to the Coliseum, many believe its location on the edge of Trafalgar Square and a main line station is ideal.

The ENO board met earlier this week and the proposed move was discussed. According to one source, the board was beginning to have doubts about the proposed relocation, and this may have hastened Mr Marks's decision to leave the company and concentrate on projects in film and television. He was at the BBC before joining ENO.

The board was also said to be unhappy that the company had not yet received Arts Council "stabilisation funding" from the lottery, and to have felt that concentration on moving location may have led

There has also been criticism that the company failed to project itself sufficiently as "the



Exit under fire: Dennis Marks, whose decision to quit the ENO came as a shock to the opera world

ENO's special contribution to

the nation's artistic life will grow

the Government was admonishing the Royal Opera for not fulfilling that role.

Paul Daniel, who joined the company as music director from Opera North only last

tic leadership of the company until a replacement is found.

Leading contenders for the job are likely to include Patrick Deuchar, who recently resigned

month, will take over the artis- his position as chief executive that the Arts Council had deferred his lottery bid for a reof the Royal Albert Hall after a successful period there, and Nicholas Snowman, head of the South Bank Centre, who this sidered.

development of the Centre. Paul Daniel may also be con-

Dennis Marks said yester-

operatic world. With Paul day: "It has been a privilege and ... an inspiration to be part of Eng-Daniel now at the artistic helm, lish National Opera for the past they can every confidence that

Film director's lost



musical is found

A "lost" film from one of the 1928 Cinematograph Film Act. great directors of British cine- It will be shown on 22 Novemma has been uncovered and is ber at the British Film Instito be screened for the first time tute's theatre at South Bank in 65 years, it was announced during the annual London Film

four years. I leave behind 500

colleagues whose dedication

and talent is unsurpassed in the

His Lordship, by Michael ly thought he had a well-known to make The Red Shoes in 1948. 1990. and to collaborate with Emer-

turing a Cockney plumber who imposed on studios by the cause for celebration."

Testival. Ten pictures directed by

Powell, dates from 1932 and Michael Powell Pictures are was unearthed in Cheshire by still unaccounted for, but it is a private collector who initial feared that they may be lost forfeared that they may be lost forever as they were made on unmovie. It was Powell's eighth stable film which decayed film, made when he was an un-rapidly. Powell, regarded as known director. But he went on an influential director, died in

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Pasmess, chis !

The film His Lordship was found by a team from the BFT's ic Pressburger. found by a team from the BFT's His Lordship is a musical archive unit, which said it was comedy with a complex plot fea- a lucky find. An archivist from the institute, Anne Fleming, is also a peer, and a couple of conmen. It is regarded as one a handful of these films will of the better "quota quickies" resurface so when the archive produced at that time to satis- is lucky enough to come across fy the production requirements a lost orphan of cinema it is

Ayres quits Royal Academy

A second member of the Roy- in the exhibition, despite the Gillian Ayres, has resigned in protest against the "Sensation" However, damage to the exhibition and the painting of Hindley portrait is much more moors murderer, Myra Hindley.Her resignation follows that of sculptor Michael Saudle, who resigned in protest at the way the institution was being portrait could be a problem.

The Royal Academy yes-terday confirmed that Ms Ayres, 67, had resigned, but said it still intended to put the damaged Hindley painting back up

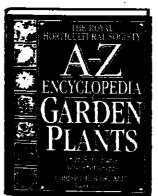
al Academy, the eminent and controversy it had caused and celebrated abstract painter the two acts of vandalism against it on Thursday.

extensive than was first thought, Royal Academy officials said. A team of specialist conservators, fear that restoration of the

Despite the damage, the portrait of Hindley is still clearly in full view to members of the public in a cordoned-off section of the gallery.

David Lister

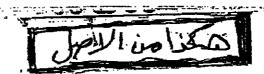




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jando at work, rest and play: where eise but behind a keyboard?

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Jeno Jando, pronounced with two soft Js. Rings a bell? No? No list of the world's leading pianists - the 10 best. the twenty best, pick your number ever does include the name, yet this 45-year-old Hungarian is without doubt the most prolific recording pianist alive, and by far the most widely sold.

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itor's lost

found

Listen at random and see. You may conclude that his late Beethoven doesn't hold a candle to Alfred Brendel's, and that Shura Cherkassky extracted a magic from Schumann's Kreisleriana that totally evades the heavier-handed Jando. You may prefer young Yevgeny Kissin's Haydn, or Liszt's spell as cast by the brilliant Boris Berezovsky. But listen on, and you realise something else. Nothing from Jando jars. It's all decent stuff, and sometimes more than that. His Schumann Camural turns its cartwheels with absolute sureness; his playing of

'I've started, so I'll finish': the true confessions of a serial recording star

cular clarity, devoid of affectation. Perhaps promiscuity and promise are compatible after all.

How did Jando's enthropement as Naxos's resident virtuoso come about? "By accident," says the budget label's German founder, Klaus Heymann, speaking from his cyrie in Hong Kong. "Jeno Jando was just one of the Hungaroton artists we were distributing in the Pacific, and we told the company we needed someone to record the three most popular Beethoven sonatas for mended him. When it was done, I sat down with my wife [the Japanese violinist, and Naxos recording star, Takako Nishizaki] and listened, and we realised it was wonderful playing. So we faxed Hungaroton back, saying, 'Could he do the lot?"

Ten years and 100 CDs later, Jando still sounds bemused. "At the beginning I just recorded - I didn't even know which company it was for. It became continuous, first the complete Beethoven sonatas, then the complete Mozart concertos, then the Haydn sonatas, then the Bartok concertos, then Bach's Well-tempered Clavier. I'm now in the middle of the complete Schubert." He makes scaling these musical peaks sound as routine as a jog round the park, and he's talking in mid-recording session (well, where else would he be?).

The job in hand is Beethoven's

Rachmaninov concertos has a clean, lyrical strength; his trademark is a mus-Dong-Suk Kang and cellist Maria Kliegel, two more veterans from the Naxos stable. The conductor Bela Drahos and his orchestra, the Nicolaus Esterhazy Sinfonia, exist to record for Naxos, and Budapest's Italian Institute is now used for little else. Musical pro-

duction lines don't often come as neat. The only sign of stress is the ubiquitous lighting-up of Mariboros, whenever a halt is called. Jando chainsmokes with the best of them, but I've seldom seen such a cool operator. No matter how often a re-take is demanded, the elegance of his playing never falters; there's no petulance, no outraged vanity, just a patient, quizzical smile, and every so often during pauses a bit of out-of-key clowning, to raise a laugh among the violins. He's the class joker, as well as the star.

But that's just the point: he isn't a star. Heymann had told me that Jando "didn't lend himself" to the sort of hype on which every pianist in the international circus willingly or unwillingly rides. There's no flamboyance in his approach to the keyboard: his only quirk is an unconscious clacking of his tongue against his teeth, which his producer neutralises by interposing an unlit cigarette. There's nothing flashy about his off-stage persona, nothing commercially exploitable. He simply lives to play. Two years ago he developed a tumour in the palm of his right hand; during the three weeks after the operation, he learnt and performed Ravel's Piano Concerto in D. which is played with the left hand only.

I'd been told he hates giving interviews, and that his last was three years ago. When prompted, he sketches out his trajectory with brisk modesty: musical parents, normal childhood, reluctance to practise ("merely" four or five hours a day when he was a teenager - we Westerners know nothing about hard work). "I count my career as starting when I won third prize in the Beethoven competition, when I was 18." He apologises for his English, which is slow and awkward.

He studied in Budapest in the shadow of Andras Schiff, and levelpegged with two other pianists - Zoltan Kocsis and Dezso Ranki - who both got off to smart careers while he was left on the starting-blocks. Why did they start faster than him? "The state chose them to represent Hungary abroad."

Why did it not choose him as well? "Perhaps because I was not from Budapest, but from the countryside."

This, I'm told later by his producer, is a characteristically diplomatic reply: the truth was that he didn't oil up to party politicians. When he did get started, it was as a recitalist in the Hungarian provinces. "It was pleasant, because the state supported musical life - though I don't want to imply that the Communist era was a good one,"

Music in Hungary now is in a desperate plight, with the best teachers

and students haemorrhaging to the West, but Jando remains optimistic: Somehow our musical life still works. There are just too many pianists." He's still in regular touch with both Kocsis and Ranki, "but we're now so different that we are no longer a threat to each other".

He superstitiously always carries a score with him, but never consults it when playing: he has a formidable memory. For pleasure, he listens to the great departed - conductors like Klemperer and Furtwängler, pianists like Horowitz, Schnabel and Richter. And no, he isn't dismayed by comparisons: "I have my own approach to the masterworks." Is there anything he can't do technically? "Thanks be to God, apart from a relatively small stretch, I can do almost anything I want."

He wants to re-record some of the Beethoven sonatas - "I have more maturity now" - and Naxos will not stand in his way. He plays for a flat fee each time - no royalties - but that's all right by him. I Jeave him mulling over whether he will record some Liszt for a Japanese producer later in the day. He may, but then again he may not. It depends on the money. He isn't bothered either way.

He's shortly due to record Mozart's four-hand piano music with one of his conservatoire students, and he also records with his mezzo-soprano wife. "I'm so happy to have this amazing opportunity, to record everything that I love." Budget schmudget: this is a man in heaven.

Jeno Jando's bestsellers: Mozart Concertos Nos 12, 14 & 21 (Naxos 8.550202), Beethoven Sonatas Nos 14, 21 & 23 (8.550294). His latest release is Liszt's Transcendental Studies (8.553119)

THE PLAY

Othello

David Harewood becomes the first

black actor at the National to play the

title role in Shakespeare's tragedy of jeal-

ousy and hate. Anthony Ward designs

and Sam Mendes directs a small-scale

production set around the 1930s with

Simon Russell Beale as Iago. Claire

Skinner as Desdemona and Colin Tier-

In rep, the Cottesloe, National Theatre.

Paul Taylor had misgivings but enjoyed

a staging of "lovely economy" crowned

by "Russell Beale's extraordinary, com-

pelling lago". "Harewood has grandeur.

humour, ardour, anguish and his nobil-

ity of voice and physique form an ideal

contrast to Beale's gnarled ugliness," applauded the FT. "Clear, direct, full of

closely observed detail ... [Harewood's]

anger is, however, awesome. his distress

harrowing," revelled the Telegraph.

"Mendes's thrilling production ... Psy-

chological imprisonment is further re-inforced by Paul Pyant's lighting," gulped

London SE1 (0171-928 2252)

ney as Cassio.

A WEEK IN THE ARTS DAVID LISTER

The comedian Arnold Brown had a nice ad lib when people coughed in his Edinburgh Festival shows, "That's a had cough." he would muse, "what's a good cough?", which led on to a quasi-linguistic debate. There is, they would have us believe, no such thing as a good cough at a classical music concert. This week Radio 3 announced it would be handing out cough sweets, with waxed, silent wrappers, at its live recordings, to silence the coughers.

This is a retrograde step. One of the aesthetic pleasures of attending a classical music concert is coughing between the movements, and glaring at those novice concert-goers who applaud instead. A light clearing of the throat for early music, a heartfelt splutter for the romanticism of Brahms. a rasping back for the drama of Beethoven.

So why the assault in every national newspaper on the aficionados of concert-going whose coughs emanate from years of musical study? The answer could be that Radio 3 has employed a marketing agency. Amadeus, to ruise its profile. The coverage this week was ostensibly about Radio 3's alarm over coughing, but it also served to remind the nation that Radio 3 made live recordings at concerts around the country. A clever piece of classical music spin-doctoring. But I, for one, shall cough on regardless, and impress my neighbours with my musical expertise.



Stars are so expensive these days, but who needs 'em when your local MP is an actor manque. Yesterday a new acting discovery was being filmed for a video cameo, playing a newsreader - originally played by astronomer Patrick Moore in the stage revival of Return to the Forbidden Planet, Bob Carlton's rock 'n' roll send-up of The Tempest, The revival at the New Victoria Theatre, Stoke, will mark the first time an arts minister has not just supported his portfolio, but nabbed a starring role in it.

Mark Fisher, arts minister, is undeterred by the sporadic boos when he made a speech from the stage at the Glastonbury Festival. A method actor. Mr Fisher has apparently been studying ITN's Trevor McDonald, and if he manages to mix Me-Donald and Moore, he should give a performance worth walking to Stoke for, particularly with such couplets as:

"Confused? Amazed? Now gentles please take heart For we will now commence the second part."

But there is one snag. Is Mr Fisher, a staunch supporter of trade union rights, a member of Equity? Or will be attract the pickets on opening night?

Who is this arrogant spendthrift referred to in the new volume of memoirs from Sir Denis Forman, former chairman and MD of Granada Television. He describes "the moonlike smile stretching from ear to ear beneath a pair of huge circular spectacles... He reminded me," writes Sir Denis, "of the wartime graffiti character Chad whom one would encounter peering over walls or round corners asking, 'Wot. No Tea?" The chap with the moonlike smile apparently got from Sir Denis money to subsidise a group of actors for three months to develop "the comedy show to end all comedy shows". After three months he asked for and got more money, but produced nothing. Sir Denis concludes: "As I see him reorganising the BBC today with much the same degree of confidence and much larger sums of money, I hope the end result will be better...

"John [Birt] had no talent for the management of people, which in the end is the sort of management that matters most."

You may not believe it but... classical concert promoter Raymond Gubbay really was in a taxi from Dublin airport to the city concert hall for a performance of Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. The driver was unusually enthusiastic. He knew The Four Seasons was being performed, and said he had heard tickets were selling well. "Wonderful stuff," he sighed. "but a pity that Frankie Valli left them."

THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

A messy business, this thing called life

Everything leaks. We ourselves begin life leaking out of every available orifice, and we carry on leaking all the way to the grave (even there, we don't stop for a while). Our control may improve for a while in the middle, but we can't ever hope to stop the leaking altogether. Royal Acam The knowledge of life's leakiness is the basis of most farce: the occasional obtrusive adjecthe protagonists have a secret tive (Hal describes his partner to keep, but false moustaches fall off, cupboard doors won't the baroque banality of sexual stay shut, lavatories won't flush. carcless words are dropped, sizes and nationalities of the and hit by bit secrets trickle out, respectability dribbles away.

Joe Orton's Looi (Radio 3, Sunday) is a classic example of the form, with its complex machinations involving stolen money, an embalmed corpse with loose-fitting artificial eyes, a bank robber who is constitutionally incapable of lying, and a thinly disguised policeman. Orton's innovation is that the parties with the secret to keep are thorough-going criminals rather than put-upon bourgeois; the audience is invited to sympathise with Hal and Dennis's straightforward criminality rather than with the cringing -FRIEND Catholic respectability of Hal's father, or the state-sponsored viciousness of Inspector Truscott. pain. Jean Snedegar told the

Lindsay Posner's production, broadcast to mark the 30th anniversary of Orton's death, was a remarkable of the control of the c tive piece of farce - the swift pace and comic impact suggesting that radio need not be underbelly: in this case, the afraid of visual humour, only of revelation that Marilyn had humour that's been insufficiently visualised. And the fine performances, particularly Debra Gillett as the briskly ef-

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ficient serial murderer Nurse McMahon and Timothy Spall as Truscott, emphasised Orton's individual ear for language - the deliberately Wildean paradoxes (why won't Hal attend his mother's funeral? "It would upset me" - "That is what funerals are meant to do"), the cadences of rigidly pious grief, as "a very hourious type of lad"), fantasy (Hal's list of the various

"birds" in the perfect brothel). All in all, Loor emerged as an engagingly watertight piece of comic craftsmanship. It didn't come across as a critique of society, even as possessing a consistent moral viewpoint, and in another 30 years, when the Swinging Sixties have become as irrelevant as the Naughty Nineties or the Jazz Age, one suspects it will look pretty arthritic. But, for the moment, it's looking spry enough.

More leakage in the first programme of Not Just a Pretty Face (Radio 4, Thursday), a new series about the Miss America pageant: this time, the way that childhood leaks into our adult lives, how we fail to contain story of Marilyn Van Derbur, Miss America 1958, who went on to become one of America's most highly regarded public speakers. But, as always, the American dream has its dark been raped by her father regularly from the age of five. This is a powerful piece of

irony but, in the end, that single irony was all the programme had to offer. Marilyn's account of her traumas had been rehearsed to blank perfection. Whether this was a symptom of America's culture of self-revelation, or a technique for coping with the awfulness of her life, the effect was to reduce her story to a trivially shocking anecdote.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW DAVID BENEDICT



THE EXHIBITION Sensation

The RA's hang of Young British Artists

from the Saatchi Collection includes

Rachel Whiteread's Ghost, plus works by (no surprise) Damien Hirst, Richard

Patterson (above), and Marcus Harvey's

Myra, a giant reproduction of the police

mugshot of Hindley composed of child's

handprints, which has been temporarily

Royal Academy, London W1 (0171-439 7438) until 28 Dec.

Tom Lubbock shook his head at empty

removed after damage by visitors.

approved The Guardian.

Tracey Emin, the rest is

all gong and no dinner.

THE FILM

Career Girls

The first film written and directed by Mike Leigh since his international and Joe Tucker.

nationwide.

provocation: "The works acquire an aspect of stupidity. All they can do is point. They stand wide-eyed before their perception that the world is full of threatening anxieties." "The uneven quality of his collection is cruelly exposed ... the installation does this art no favours." asserted the Telegraph. "A welcome sign that the RA has belatedly decided to atone for its disgraceful, antiquated intolerance in the past," cheered The Times. "The tide of filth ... predictable, distasteful offerings of the new establishment," expostulated the Mail. "Saatchi's assemblage of freaks, frauds and feeble failures makes the sane man sick," snarled the Standard. "No one is being forced to see these works. But for those with an interest in British art over the past decade, 'Sensation' is essential viewing."

Scandal or no, apart from good work by Marc Quinn, Rachel Whiteread, and

success Secrets and Lies stars Katrin Cartlidge and Lynda Steadman as two present-day businesswomen who, in flashback, remember their scuzzy student days almost a decade ago. With Mark Benton, Kate Byers, Andy Serkis Cen 15, 89 mins, on sclected release

Adam Mars-Jones saw flaws: "acting exercises not acts of insights" but "Leigh has yet to make a film without winning moments." "Not vintage Leigh, but even his worst is better than most British filmmakers' best ... Precise, mischievous, almost forensic," declared the FT. "By the end of this wayward yet touching film, Leigh's caricatures have become living people," admired The Times. "Piquantly formed ... There's truth here; affection too and a load of humour," smiled the Standard. "A caricaturist who loves his characters, and who can make us love them too," gloried The Guardian. "Leigh's improvisation style triumphed in Secrets and Lies, but backfires here," sniffed The Mirror. "Leigh is at a loss to develop this situation ... This thin, disappointing film," winced Time Out. "It all seems a bit 'So what'," shrugged The Express.

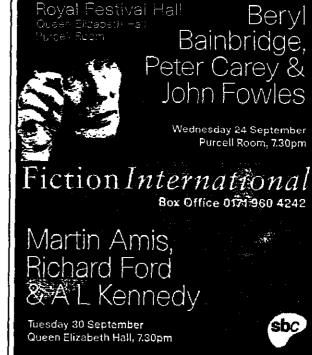
Closer in style and spirit to Leigh's earlier films than the slightly atypical Secrets and Lies.



The Times. "A first-rate Othello in David Harewood ... Mendes, like Trevor Nunn before him, strengthens the tragedy by allowing it to grow out of an accumulation of domestic detail." announced The Guardian. -Should be retitled Iago ... Too mawkish, too long and badly lit," frowned the Mail. Undeniably compelling, but heavily indebted to Nunn's pulse-quickening 1989 pro-

duction, Warning: Don't sit on the sides or you'll miss half the play.







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Never mind the job, some of us want a life

DAMAGING FAMILY LIFE

1. Agree how to share the load: who

2. Encourage responsibility in your

3. Decide your priorities: perhaps that

means giving up smoking and going out

for dinner so you can have a cleaner.

4. Stop being a perfectionist.

be done your way.

Plan your time very carefully.

Overcome procrastination.

are no good to anyone.

6. Learn to delegate and to say no.

7. Stop worrying that everything should

ing, insomnia - and so avoid a crisis.

picks up the kids from school, etc.

This week a senior record company executive made legal history by winning £9,000 compensation for being dismissed after he rejected a move that would have separated him from his wife and baby daughter. lack O'Sullivan finds that the decision is the sympton of a growing trend towards employees demanding that their bosses become more family-friendly.

When James Whyte was told that he would have to spend 75 per cent of his working time abroad, he had, in his mind, little

choice about the right thing to do. Mr Whyte, 32, a £40,000a-year record company executive, told his boss at EMI that he could not accept the change. He had a one-year -old daughter, Emma, and his family had to come first. With EMI unwilling to budge, Mr Whyte threatened to resign and, to his surprise, found himself

out of a job. "I was going to miss my lovely BMW 3-series coupé, the £300-a-year private health insurance and free CDs every month," said Mr Whyte. "I felt terrified, suddenly I had no money and a young family to feed. But if I didn't do it, I would never have seen my daughter starting to crawl, walk and recognise

me as daddy."

It is a familiar story, though more usually it is women who make the hard choice. Coming back from maternity leave,

they frequently encounter a rigid work culture that is incompatible with spending time with their children. So they leave.

This week, however, an important battle in the war to balance home and work was won, thanks to Mr Whyte. An industrial tribunal awarded him more than £9.000 for constructive dismissal. The tribunal concluded that EMI had made unreasonable demands upon Mr Whyte, who had already agreed to spend 40 per

cent of his time working away from home. This case, however, is just one sign of the family crises caused by the demands of work, particularly on dual-income couples. "The fundamental problem is sustaining relationships," says Penny De Valk, manager of Work/Life Directions, a consultancy which advises businesses on

more family friendly policies. HOW TO STOP YOUR JOB

"Travelling away from home can create terrible pressures on marriages when you might be away for half the time." One partner may be in a job that means going away for weeks at a time at short notice, shattering the carefully constructed system of nannies, baby-sitters and shared responsibilities. When that person returns home, it may be difficult for them to fit in again. because the homebased partner has

ет ways to manage. 9. Look after yourself otherwise you Mr Whyte's wife, Jo, supported his decision, though, she said, she 10. Be alert to warning signs - drinkwas terrified when

he came home and

ceased to rely on

them and found oth-

said that be would have no salary any more. "I would rather that he had up job at all," she said, " than be travelling around the world the whole time. I would never



James Whyte with his wife Jo. 'I would never have seen my daughter starting to crawl,' he said

National Pictures

have seen him and neither would Emma." Concern about such problems is running high, particularly among professional groups, and it is shared equally by men and women, according to Ms De Valk. "Fast" cars, fat-cat salaries and flashy penthouses are no longer enough for the young and upwardly mobile. What they really, really want is to get a life."

It is a sentiment James Whyte echoes. "Seeing my daughter grow up was the most important thing in my life and it was essential I didn't miss it," he said after winning this week's case: "Living in New York may sound exotic but it is not exactly exciting after you've done it for a while, like I have. All you see every day is the office and the hotel, the hotel and the office."

Survey evidence shows that Mr Whyte's feelings reflect his generation. A recent Mori poll found that a quarter of male em-One in five of all employees said they would accept a pay cut to have more free time. ance between work and life ranked high-

er than the challenge of their job, the quality of their boss and even the opportunity of promotion, when they were asked about what made them feel committed to their employers.

Cary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at UMIST believes that the Whyles' generation is rebelling against what employers expect. "The average family has both partners working," he says, "so people are asking a lot of fundamental questions such as, does this really produce a good quality of life? There are people now with young families who worked very hard in the Eighties. These are the people now whom you would expect to be career-driven. But they saw what happened at the end of the Eighties. They saw people being dumped by downsizing. Now, in the Nineties, they are being asked to work the longest hours in Europe, and they live in a country which has the highest divorce rate in Europe. So they are looking for a different way of life. where their values are respected. The Nineties is becoming like the flower power era of the Sixties, but without the flowers."

The problem for these rebels is that the quality research showing how damaging working lives can be is slight. A study by UMIST to be published in December will show that consistently long working hours are related to poor health. But it is harder to prove that family breakdown and poor productivity are caused by excessive work obligations.

Some employers, however, particularly those in the IT sector, are at last introducing family-friendly policies. Tim Robinson, 34, is married with two children under five. But he is also British chief executive of Silicon Graphics, a worldwide computer company. "I like to finish work between 6 and 6.30 and get home in time to bathe the kids and read them a story before bed," he says. "The company's principle is that each individual has to get the job done, but we like to give them as much flexibility as possible. So in my case I'll ofployees think that family life and career progression is incompatible with their position. to bed. People's space is respected, whether that involves making time for them to go windsurfing, play chess or have a family." For all full-time employees the right bal- Perhaps there will be a job for James

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Blonde, bouncy, but also ballsy

It's not too difficult to figure out why the boys like Zoe Ball. She's blonde, bouncy and bubbly. Smash Hits magazine gave her its Sexiest Chick on the Box award. But none of these are why BBC has decided to stake the future of Radio 1 on her by picking her to co-present its breakfast programme.

A teen magazine poll showed that Zoe is a girl that 86 per cent of its readers can identify with, and broadcastine industry sources say it was that kind of evidence that impressed Radio 1 chiefs when they were looking for a replacement for Mark Radcliffe and his sidekick Marc "Lard" Riley, who are being banished to the afternoon.

na mare profit

"She's the kind of girl our readers can relate to," says Jo Hawkings of Bliss. "She comes across as fun. She doesn't seem a bad girl. She's thrty but a good person. She's the kind of girl they think they could enjoy a good gossip with."

This is not the kind of thing that people say about the Spice Girls. They may love them (the current issue of Smash Hits comes complete with a "Free! Inflatable Emma Doll!") but they are hardly the girls next door. Nor do girls feel so sisterly towards the loud-mouthed laddettes from The Girlie Show.

But Zoe is no laddente and though she has been around long enough to be Original Spice she would never fit as such. "Zoe isn't as tarty," said one 14-year-old. If anything Zoe is into girlie power in the lower case rather than in-yourface Girl Power. If her fans can't be her, they would be happy to be her friend.

Fourteen-year-old Georgina Ball from Hertfordshire is no relation but wishes she were. "I'd love to be her for the day. I'd like to have her hair. Her clothes are really extreme, re-



ally cool. She's not scarey. She's really friendly." She and her friend Annie White said they watch BBC1's Live and: Kicking on Saturday mornings just to watch Zoe. The official line is that

Zoe has been hired for her showbiz glamour. She is a dedicated party girl - it has been said that she would attend the opening of an envelope if invited - and is a staple of the teen magazines' celebrity pages. One senior radio executive said: "Zoe is not regarded as being hugely talented but she is high profile. Essentially she's Evans with a short skirt." This is a grown-up speak-

thing that Zoe's fans wouldn't pay attention to - and they know that she wouldn't either. "She is not bitchy." said Sarah Tomczak at Sugar magazine. You never see a catty remark attributed to her. She doesn't come with an attitude. She just

seems like a nice person."

It is not only teenies who like Zoe. More magazine. aimed at girl/women aged between16 and 24, will feature Zoe next month as one of its female icons of the Nineties. "There will be five on the cover and she is one of those who we have approached," said Nigel May, features editor. Others include women such as ing though and it is the kind of Sophie Dahl and Martine Mc-

Why do girls identify so much with Zoe Ball, the party girl who has just been chosen to rescue early morning Radio !? Teen experts tell Ann Treneman that it's mainly because she isn't scary.

Photograph: All Action

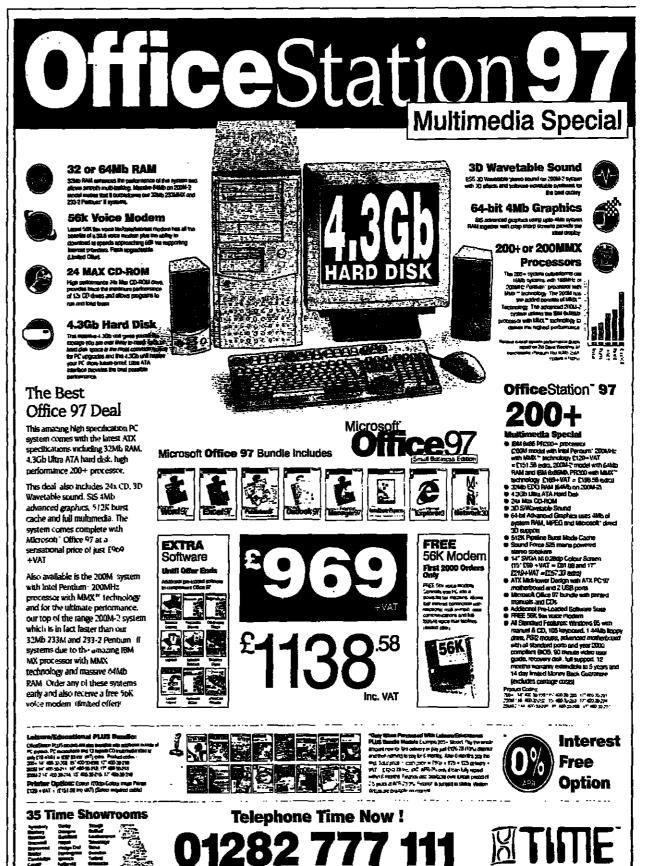
Cutcheon of EastEnders. So what does May think is so attractive about Zoe? "It's not Girl Power so much as Girls with Balls. I think our readers enjoy her because she's attractive, she's her own girl, and she been quoted as saying things like that she enjoys a drink and that she enjoys sex. She's just a nice person and she hasn t trod on anyone's feet to get to where she is."

He passes me over to his coworker Deborah Joseph for the female viewpoint. "She doesn't seem like she loves herself and that is really important. Our readers hate anyone who seems arrogant. She's really stylish and she's appealing and feminine too." So would she say that Zoe was a Girl with Balls? "No, that sounds too laddish. I think Nigel and I will have to disagree over that. Just because she's successful doesn't make her ballsy. I think she's feminine and that is part of her appeal."

The fact that Zoe is different things to different people is part of her magic. "It's one of the reasons I think she'll be really successful," says Deborah. "Men really fancy her and women aren't put off by her cither. She has a lot of appeal for both men and women."

Duncan Gray, executive producer of The Big Breakfast. thinks that Zoe is simply a natural. "She is totally unaffected. She has no artifice about her. Women want to be like her and men just fancy the pants off her. She's not like a glamour bitch across the floor at a nightclub. She's approachable, she's fresh and she's natural." And that is what Radio 1 is banking on.

Additional reporting by Presi



Offer Must End 4th October

The voices of Wales call for Blair the democrat to think again



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Over the next few days Tony Blair's mettle will be severely tested. His response will tell us a great deal about his political identity. As Labour offers its considered answer to the marginal approval by Welsh voters of the assembly project, we will learn whether Tony Blair is a democrat. Is this a leader prepared to attend one of democracy's great lessons, that the decisions of people are messy, uncertain, not entirely rational but in the last analysis are the best lecisions there are?

Last year he lanced a boil inside his party by imposing on it a scheme for Scottish and Welsh referendums. He upstaged Labour opponents of devolution by commanding the democratic high ground, just as he has since won trick after trick from the Tories. The rhetoric is compelling. New Labour, he has been promising, is a party which has to listen to the plural voices of Britain and specifically to give the residents of the national entities within the United Kingdom another chance - after the Tory era - to express a view about selfgovernment. Scottish residents spoke. Their will is settled. Thursday's vote in

Wales did not secure such an outcome. But perhaps Mr Blair's mind-set is that of the man in Westminster who knows what is best, who prefers the smooth and uniform scheme regardless of local di-

versity? Scotland and Wales are different, just as the regions of England are hugely diverse. No single scheme can or should be applied. Welsh governance remains in play and it is time to start to think about

Tony Blair's immediate response was not a good augury, and that of Ron Davies was even more dispiriting. Just because the rules of the game have been followed does not confer legitimacy upon the process - that is the view of a bureaucrat or ideologue, surely not that of a practising politician whose business is inclusion and the mobilisation of maximal agreement. The appropriate response to the expression of opinion by the residents of Wales - and the fact that a fraction of them bothered to turn out is significant - is to think again about the governance of the principality, from top to toe.

Rushed legislation would be a political mistake. It would serve to distract the Blair administration from more pressing concerns and hand the undeserving Tories a weapon and an issue. It would be a signal that this, despite all the New Labour rhetoric, is a government of dogmatists. On May 1 the country willed a switch away from ministers who exulted in their inflexibility; is evidence being prepared here that the voters were mistaken? Leg-



islation for a Welsh assembly should proceed on the basis that the present plan does not carry convincing support in the principality, and that a better-adapted and more convincing proposal needs to be developed, and put to the people of Wales again when it has passed through the Commons. A 0.6 per cent majority is inadequate as a mandate for such a significant constitutional change.

The strongest reason for thinking again is that this campaign has been educational. What has been said and thought during the past few weeks gives ready lessons about the future governance of Wales. Two stand out. They have to do with the importance of intra-regional divisions of interest and with the problem of local government

That the socio-economic personality of North Wales is different from that of the Wales of the valleys is self-evident; that such differences needs to be recognised in politics and administration came over strongly in the campaign. Is Wales really a political unity or are there intermediate arrangements that better recognise the huge distance, real and figurative, between Cwmbran and Cobvyn Bay?

What also became evident is the suspicion bordering on contempt in which much of Weish local government is held by residents. Yes, the new "unitary" councils have not yet properly bedded down and a lot of the antagonism has to do with the failings of the previous two-tier arrangement. But problems go deeper and are located nearer to Tony Blair than he might care to realise. Too much of Wales is run by a party which gives every sign of being an oligarchy. Jokes about the Taffia are built round a kernel of truth. The prospect of a Welsh assembly that would be Glamorgan County Council writ large was found unaccentable by land was found unacceptable by large numbers. and so it should. But unless and until the Labour Party itself is reformed, the prospects for democratic renewal in Wales - at any level - are slim.

In Wales, like Magnus Magnusson, Labour having started must now finish. The problems which inspired the debate about a national assembly remain to be tackled, among them the accountability of the Welsh appointed bodies and the Weish Office. There is a good case for representation of the people at a level above that of the locality, but below that of Westminster. But any new scheme for Welsh governance needs to be set before the voters of Wales for their approval. On the basis of this week's vote, a precondition for their assent may be radical change within the Labour Party itself.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welsh referendum

Sir: The Welsh referendum was intended by the Government to build on the apparent enthusiasm for devolution shown in the results of the May general election; in fact the deeply underwhelming "Yes" result has undermined this enthusiasm.

Just 25 per cent of the Welsh electorate voted in favour of the principle of a Welsh assembly, with the other 75 per cent either voting against or abstaining. By contrast, at the general election, 57 per cent of the Welsh electorate voted Labour. Liberal Democrat or Welsh Nationalist, with these parties aking nearly four out of five of the votes actually cast. All these parties were committed, as a central part of their respective manifestos, to some form of devolution.

Given that little more than one in three of the Welsh electorate were prepared to go out and vote, the referendum result hardly represents a convincing mandate to push the proposals through the two Houses of Parliament. At worst for the Government, the results suggest that there has been a total collapse in support for devolution and that a longer campaign might have led to the proposal being rejected altogether. M C FITZPATRICK Head of Economics Chantrey Vellacott London WCI

Families still count

Sir: Polly Toynbee's courageous confession ("Why my blow for women was bad for the poor", 18 September) that tax reforms she and others (myself included) supported in the 1970s and 1980s have had a deleterious effect on families is to be welcomed.

But why does she go on to argue for the abolition of the married couple's allowance which in its nugatory form is the last remaining, if faint, fiscal signal emitted from the Treasury that families and marriage still count? Over two decades, Tory tax law targeted families and marriage and thus helped contribute to social atomisation. Further fiscal engineering undermining families and marriage is the last thing we need. DENIS MacSHANE MP (Lab. Rotherham) House of Commons London SW1

Sir: Polly Toynbee is right to argue against importing the carned income tax credit scheme for low income families from the United States, and in favour of substantially increasing child benefit. But the rest of her package - going back to ioint taxation of couples and taxing child benefit - would be

moves in the wrong direction. To apply joint taxation to married couples only would be discriminatory. But the idea of the Inland Revenue administering a cohabitation rule is a nightmare. It turns into an administrative absurdity once the London W8

increasing fluidity of relation- Targets for recycling ships is taken into account.

To point out that means-Sir: Polly Toynbee ("The battle of incinerators vs recyclers", 15 tested benefits are assessed on a family basis does not justify a September) may feel the Govreturn to joint taxation; instead, ernment's target of recycling 25 we should be exploring how to per cent of household waste by move towards individually-2000 is too low. However, it is based benefits, as the European worth noting that if the UK Commission has recently sugwere to reach a recycling level gested. If we are worried about of 40 per cent over the next 10the widening gap between rich 20 years, comparable with the and poor, there are plenty of best results ever achieved, this would still leave 60 per cent of ways to increase redistribution from the better-off - whether our waste to be dealt with, amounting to 12 million tonnes married, cohabiting or single without abandoning indepen-

their wives. The resentment

this caused could result in calls

for the reintroduction of child

tax allowances, paid via the

main earner - usually the man.

And then we really would be

back where we started.

Community funds

Sir: May I echo and support the

proposal by Michael Brophy.

chief executive of the Charities

Aid Foundation (Letters, 17

county might have a "People's

Trust" to mark the tragic death

number of such trusts aleady ex-

ist, in the form of local com-

munity foundations, whose

objectives are to harness funds

from both individuals and com-

panies for charitable projects.

In the case of Wiltshire Com-

munity Foundation, which is my

local county organisation ded-

icated (inter alia) to supporting

community care of the frail el-

derly, minority groups, disad-

vantaged young people and to

tackling isolation, a permanent

endowment fund is being built

to provide an income source in

perpetuity for the county.

JENNIE FRANCIS

Wiltshire Community

Virgin rail fares

Sir: We normally respect Ran-

deep Ramesh's reporting of the

transport industry but on this

occasion (report, 18 Septem-

on took place four months ago,

soon after we'd taken over the

who booked by 2pm the day be-

fore to encourage advance book-

ings so we could guarantee them

a seat. We have just completed

taking on and training 300 peo-

pie in Edinburgh to enable them

to do so for the price of a local

call (telephone 0345 222 333).

Chief Executive, Virgin Rail

BRIAN BARRETT

The fare changes he reports

We reduced fares for people

ber) he's gone off the rails.

franchise, not this week.

Office Manager

Devices, Wilishire

Foundation

May I also point out that a

of Diana, Princess of Wales.

FRAN BENNETT

Society is clearly implicated It would be a mistake to tax in this: waste is a symptom of child benefit: it would be rather a need to change our ways. odd to get only families with There must be an increase in children to pay for an increase reuse and recycling. However, in the one benefit specifically for it will take a generation for the impact of any change in attitude families with children. In addito come through and the probtion, under joint taxation, many husbands could be paying tax on lems of waste are with us now. the child benefit received by Modern, clean incinerators

have a part to play in a balanced approach to waste management. Incineration reduces the volume of waste going to landfill sites by 80 per cent; more if the bottom ash produced is used in construction. It can also provide power generation and heating for local homes and businesses. JOHN EKINS Chairman Elect

Waste Management Board The Institution of Civil Engineers London SWI

September), that each town or Sir: Polly Toynbee says the Government must get the waste industry together with the boroughs to break the logiam in increasing the amount of waste that we recycle. I can tell her

that this is already happening. The boroughs are joining with the waste industry to create a new environmental body called London Waste Action where they will work together with environmental interest groups, the Government and the people of London to ensure that the entire waste management system works to the benefit of our environment. The operators of landfill sites will be subscribing and will receive a tax credit for doing so. We will involve all those who produce and distribute the packaging that fills our waste bins as well as those who make a business by reusing it and recycling it.

The boroughs have already commenced a three-year investment programme to gear up their collection systems. This is why Polly Toynbee and other Londoners have received containers from their council. Ordinary Londoners are central to the programme because it is they who must separate their waste, purchase goods made from recycled materials, use less

packaging and reuse it where

they can. COLIN ROBERTS Chief Executive London Waste Action London SWI

sheep? tions to destroy. **DAVID GIBBS**

demourished.

London SW4

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

can find no means to open the Cycle network

Marcus Harvey's painting of Myra Hindley at the 'Sensation' exhibition

and innovative ideas.

CORAL GUEST

Northamptonshire

interviewed mel

ular nights out.

what you put in.

Heme Bay, Kent

KEVIN MARMAN

Rushden.

door to genuine inspiration

Diet for a healthy life

Sir. According to a report by the

Wellman Clinic in London,

men who eat red meat are

healthier, fitter and less prone

to exhaustion than those who

don't ("Veggies who can't resist

the pleasures of the flesh", 15

September). I only wish they d

gan (no meat, fish or dairy

products) for the last eight

years; I have eaten no meat at

all for 10 years. I run regular-

karate training twice a week.

prone vegetarian is as much a

stereotype as the obese, cho-

lesterol-stuffed meat-eater.

There are junk-foodies and

couch potatoes on both sides.

I am 38 and have been a ve-

Art and iconoclasm

Sir: The culture in art to shock and disturb by undermining existing values has become so prevalent that it is endangering the fuel that feeds it ("Splashing out: the day art went too far", 19 September). Where will this movement go when all its references are used up, whether they be Myra Hindley, Jesus Christ, the Royal Family or a

Iconoclasm is all very well but it depends on someone else creating the icon first. We need to court true originality again so that we can build some new and heartening principles into our culture otherwise we may not leave anything for future genera-

Sir: Having just seen the "Sen-sation" exhibition at the Royal Academy I have emerged feeling manipulated and un-

The most prevalent quality of the show is lack of emotional maturity. The works over and over again reveal an obsession with the egoistic self. Most artists in the show can find no will to go beyond this seductive state. And, being stunted in their own development, they

ly (10km time: 34 minutes), realised as we resolve the preswim regularly (5km front sent intolerable conflict with crawl time: 1 hour, 40 minutes) and often cycle to work (a 16-JOHN GRIMSHAW mile round trip that takes me Director, Sustrans 50 minutes in total). I also do

plus some general weight train-Theory in chaos ing. My work is manual, in-Sir: You report (19 September) volving lots of lifting, fetching and carrying - and no sitting storms in the Bay of Biscay down. After all that, I still leading to the flutter of butterflies' wings in eastern Engfind time and energy for regland. Is this an example of The pallid, exhaustionreverse Chaos Theory?

ALASTAIR NEWTON

King's Lynn, Norfolk

Sir: Your correspondence (Let-

ters, 13 and 15 September) on

cyclists driving to the Forest of

Dean, in order to enjoy the ex-

cellent trails provided by the

Forestry Commission, demon-

strates just how overdue the Na-

tional Cycle Network is. Its

routes will enable your corre-

spondents to cycle by safe and

attractive ways from the centre

of Bristol, Newport, Gloucester

and other nearby settlements,

hopefully enjoying the journey

itself so much that some will not

In the meantime, the very

popularity of the Dean's cycling

routes gives us confidence that

there is a large suppressed de-

mand for cycling which will be

even reach the Foresti

Design referendum · Sir: Re: Independent redesion.

With either diet - as with much else in life - you only get out Yes, yes. ROSIE UFFINDELL Hemel Hempstead, Herrfordshire

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

you to everyone who has writcomplainants too. I have been paper carefully, often raising detailed questions of typography, design and editorial philosophy when they write. You may be, at times, a difficult bunch; but you must also be one of the most knowledgeable and opinionated newspaper readerships in the world.

sonal letter back to everyone who has commented, but there was a lot of scribbling on large is a couple of specific points bits of paper, tearing up and

which need to be raised. others, with different eyesight, the leading, but that would cramped, and probably annoy others. Anyway, all comments are welcome.

Second, the index on page two. That has replaced the newspaper as for "live" on a 'significant shorts" column though the "people" and "briefing" material is still there. Some print sites, and took the results think the index essential, others would like the shorts returned.

What do you think? Finally, many of you have asked: where has the design come from? Is there another, overseas paper which is the model? The answer is no, though I have been slouching around international newsagents for many months. There are plenty of better-looking papers elsewhere, from Scand-

First of all, thank you. Thank inavia to America. I particularly like the looks of, for instance, ten in about the new paper - to La Vanguardia of Barcelona (a the enthusiasts, who seem to be truly beautiful-looking paper), a hefty majority, but also to the Die Woche from Germany, Brazil's O Globo, and Libération touched by the trouble people in France - though we'd never have taken to go through the get away with the wild, Gallic paper carefully, often raising enthusiasm of their typefaces. Hints and suggestions have

come from these and other

papers. But the new Independent

looks nothing like any of them. The brief story is that it was created by a small huddle of us, including a London-based designer, Vince Frost, over I simply can't write a per- many long evenings of experiment and argument. There Sellotaping back together again. First, readability. This con- Then, encouraged by the fuses me. Quite a lot of you find owners, we tested it with groups the paper easier to read. But a of readers, and refined our minority are having trouble. designs. I sat listening to some They ask, for instance, why the say, "it's gorgeous, don't lose typeface of the main stories is your nerve", and others who smaller. It isn't! It was 8.75-point said, "it's terrible, what are you Dutch Roman before, and is up to?", and tried to make still. But we have increased the sense of who was saving what. "leading" - the gap between and why. As time went on, lines - slightly, to 10 points. Per- more and more colleagues haps that, with the greater use came into the loop, added ideas of white space, is causing more and subtracted others. Colglare for some readers, while leagues from other papers periodically telephoned to find it easier. The problem congratulate us on our bold decould be corrected by closing up cision to go tabloid and downmarket, or to print on green make the text look a bit more paper, or to become a glossy magazine. We thanked them politely and kept our counsel. Then, finally, earlier this

month we printed the new couple of long nights, after the real paper had been sent to the - new, printed papers with that morning's news - to panels of genial commuters in different parts of the country, who munched their way through Danish pastries and told us what they thought. Then we took a deep breath and pressed the "go" button. Here, we are all baggy-eyed with exhaustion. But it was worth it.

Andrew Marr €.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

One night I shall put myself to sleep by counting how many enthusiasts for Labour's 1980s' madness have become disciples of the 1990s' super-sanity. We are governed by the ideologically footloose - Lord Hattersley, Labour peer

This is another slippage of sterling from the world's most solid currency into tinpot trash - Mark Almond, lecturer in modem history at Oriel College, Oxford, on the new lightweight 50p coin Any prime minister serves the country to the very limit of his or her capabilities. Yet we seem to expect that work to be done on the cheap - Lord Hanson, business tycoon, deploring Tony Blair's rejection of a pay increase

The point about theatre is that you go in as individuals and end up as a community. If you want to dissent from that you can't do it invisibly. In a cinema, unless you go and assault the projectionist, whatever you do is not going to affect the performance - Richard Eyre, outgoing artistic director of the

A total disgrace, a ghastly assembly of work at the level of student shows but twice as offensive - Ralph Brown, senior Royal Academician, on the RA exhibition 'Sensation'

You can spend your whole life trying to be popular but, at the end of the day, the size of the crowd at your funeral will be largely dictated by the weather - Frank Skinner,

have to Me organi:

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23/COMMENT

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IROM

HOR

You're famous aren't you? Er, what was your name again?



TREVOR **PHILLIPS** ON THE ART OF FAME

In this week of new beginnings, it may be time for an ur-text. Of course you know what an ur-text is - the original, unexpurgated text, musical or literary, showing the author's or composer's work without modification, allowing us to translate or interpret all further texts. Everything is built on that foundation.

If this column has an ur-text, it is a profound meditation on the nature of identity, in the work of a littlerecognised group of philosophers who sum it up thus:

Who do you think you are? Some kind of superstar?

The questions which week after week we worry about are bound by this couplet, the work of Mel B, Mel C, Geri, Victoria and Emma. Weeks of debate over the referendums; millions of words about the British nation after the death of the Princess; the unceasing search of the Blair Project and its acolytes for the New Britain; the backbreaking research of dozens of university departments - all condensed into 10 words masquerading as a pop song. It is awesome.

This week I found out that the second line of the rhyme has its own special meaning. It is in effect, no less than a critical meditation on the nature of celebrity. This is something I know about. I am myself at best a said how much he admired my pronanocelebrity - my recognition factor gramme. I promise that the pride I feltbeing somewhat smaller than a fewer than two dozen people in this country who are so famous that they genuinely need no introduction. The test is whether nine out of ten of us can both recognise them and name them. You would probably recognise the Queen, but you'd miss Prince Edward in a crowd; you'd know Cilla; but, I promise you, you'd never know that Liam Gallagher wasn't his brother. Tony Blair, yes, but Michael Meacher? No way. There is an exquisite humiliation for anyone who imagines that appearing on TV makes you famous.



PHOTOMONTAGE JONATHAN ANSTEE

Having been on the screens of the capital for more than a decade, on average once a week, I have learnt this the hard way. A few months ago, whilst filming on the streets of Hackney, I was approached by a young man who was not personal, but on behalf of the weasel's wedding tackle, as Blackadder hard-working creative team that prowould put it. I believe that there are duces the show. As he turned to go he threw in one last query: "Oh, by the way, is your dad still reading the news, then?" I haven't yet figured out a way to tell Trevor Macdonald that he's ac-

quired a new relative. It may be that the young man was taught in Hackney's schools, and never got round to the lesson where they teach the distinction between a forename and a surname; but even so, I think it's a bit hard on poor old Trevor to suggest that he might already be reaching for the bus pass. Not that he'd mind, I suppose.

I am myself a nanocelebrity, my recognition factor being smaller than a weasel's wedding

Oddly enough, the truly famous can be unusually modest; they remember your name, for example. As I exammed some elephant dung at the Royal Academy's Sensation exhibition this week, I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned to be greeted by The Most Famous Living Author In The World. (Sorry Jeffrey; I could arrange the fatwa if you really fancied it, but it would make running for Mayor of London very, very hard - security would probably soak up next year's advance. It's Salman Rushdie I'm talk-

years, except across a crowded room, so I would not have expected him to remember me (shouldn't think he watches television a lot); more important, I wouldn't expect him to remember my wife's name. But he did. There is a class of hugely well-organised Americans who have your family history down in their address books, so that no business conversation passes without an enquiry about your younger daughter ("she must be nine now, right?") leaving you bewildered at their powers of recall. But he didn't have an aide-mémoire, so it must have been genuine. Anyway, TMFAINTW was charm itself. So was The Great Interrogator, whom I had not met properly before, and to whom I'd never been properly introduced, yet who greeted me as an equal.

Yet 10 minutes later I bounded up

to a lesser-known scribbler who has from time to time been paid by TV companies, and whom I had met briefly on a couple of occasions. I have never spoken more than a dozen words to the man. Yet he asked me if I was still doing the TV programme that he and I had hosted together, on a channel that I have never been near, and then started to talk about the times we worked together. Clearly, the old adage that we black people all look alike still holds for some. The chap has probably met only one black person in his life, and now imagines that we are all the same fellow. He may suffer from the same disease that afflicted the porters at my university. The son of Archbishop Tutu also happens to be called Trevor. Being what he is, and what I am, we came to know each other well, since we would regularly get each other's mail. Not that the envelopes said "Please give me to any black male answering to the name o Trevor"; they would clearly announce themselves as for "Phillips" or "Tutu". Somehow it all seemed too much.

But the people I feel really sorry for are those whose fame has become an adjunct to someone or something else's. The name Lorraine Chase will probably mean little to most of us; but I hadn't seen Salman for some "the Luton Airport Girl" places her instantly. And imagine being known only as Margaret Thatcher's husband, It's not worth it really, is it? That is why, to return to our ur-text, the Spice Girl: have it right.

You're swelling out in the wrong

You got the bug, superstar you've been Your trumpet's blowing for far too

Andy Warhol promised fame for 15 minutes to everyone. Oprah, Ricki Lake, Esther, and, God help us, Vanessa are doing their best to deliver. But be warned . You can't be too careful with calebrity. Embrace it gingerly if you embrace it at all. It's not all that

A feisty old woman on the ropes

DAVID **AARONOVITCH** ON BELL-RINGING

Where do you stand on the cause célèbre of the week, the Midge Mather case? Are you for her, or against her? Or perhaps, before you decide, you would like a little background briefing. Very well then.

At the beart of the small Wiltshire village of Compton Bassett stands the 12th century church of St Swithin's. For eight centuries, through pestilence and civil war, this place of worship has remained inviolate and un-Warwick damaged. Kingmaker spared it. Cromwell passed it by, Led Zeppelin held no free rock

concerts in adjoining fields. And then this year, a Mrs Midge Mather (I imagine that her first name must be a diminutive; few are christened after unpleasant insects, except perhaps the children of enthusiastic entymologists), aged 65, of neighbouring Magnolia Cottage, upped and bashed in the 15th century porch door using crow-bar, pick-axe and hack-saw. Once inside, the formidable pensioner cut all the bell-ropes.

These, M'lud, are the facts, uncontested by Mrs Mather or the authorities, and which led to her conviction on Thursday for causing criminal damage. Nevertheless, given a two year conditional discharge by Chippenham magistrates, Mrs Mather complained so volubly about the outcome of her trial that she had to be taken down to the cells for 10 minutes to re-compose herself.

Mrs Mather, you see, feels more than a litle sorry for herself. She is a pensioner, whose peaceful life had been destroyed by the persistent visits of foreign campanologists (often coming all the way from Oxford) to ring the bells of St Swithin's. Driven to distraction by the noise, she had warned the Archdeacon of Wiltshire, the Ven John Smith in a 55 minute phone call of her settled intention to cut the bell-ropes. When (as

the hour approached) he terminated the conversation with the words, "You must do what you must do", Mrs Mather told the court that she interpreted him as giving his permission that she borrow a crowbar and break into the church.

It may well be that the English aversion to extraneous noise of any kind has emboldened the rope-slicer of Magnolia Cottage to believe that she may enjoy wide support. In addition we are - us a nation - famously on the side of elderly, feisty ladies who take on officialdom and win. Many old women seem to plan their lives on the basis that society will tolerate the most extraordinary anti-social behaviour on their parts.

I think that Mrs Mather has miscalculated. Let us take noise first. If most of us were to make an instant calculation about whether we would rather live next to a Rastafarian music collective or to Mrs Mather, we might not all choose the latter. When I was young my poor mother was persecuted by next door neighbours, who complained about my infant brother bouncing in his cot. some 50 feet and two rooms away from the party wall. Second, it is unnecessary

to consult the photographs accompanying press reports of Mrs Mather's court appearance to know she is formidable. A face of obstinute strength is framed by a single string of pearls below, and a black hat with funny netting above. The arms are folded, the lips pursed. Mrs Mather may be a pensioner. but she is as strong as an ox. Midge is not a woman who puts up with things. And therefore - as a thing myself - it is not in my interests to put up with Midge.

All we have to do is define this spirituality and write it into the organisations that have lost their souls



andrew **BROWN** ON SPIRITS OF THE AGE

We shouldn't need reminding, after the last formight, that modern spirituality takes strange forms; but it's still a little shocking to find a sacred motorbike. This is the story: a young man is dying of cancer in an NHS hospital in Yorkshire. His pain is controlled, but there is nothing that can be done for him, as he has known for some time: yet still he grows agitated, without being able to explain why.

Tom Keighley, one of the nurses, who later told the story, decided to approach the question indirectly. He talked to the boy about what really mattered in his life, and it turned out that what he loved most of all were big, fast bikes. His room was papered with pictures of them, and he had even bought one before falling ill. So chine, brought it, somehow, into the boy's room and when he died, four days later, he did so with one arm across the saddle of his beloved bike. As far as we can know, he was happy. The story was told at a con-

ference last week on spirituality within the NHS, chaired by Rabbi Julia Neuberger, which was noteworthy for the mixture of confusion about spirituality with the certainty that spirits and souls exist. If caring for people's souls can lead nurses to drag dirty big motorbikes into a hospital ward, there is clearly something to be cared for; just as clearly it is not a soul to be understood in traditional Christian terms, or those of any other religion. Neither was it a New Age thing. There was no particular suggestion that the motorcycle-riding part of the patient would survive his death, or be gifted with supernatural powers, only a recognition that an essential part of the patient rode bikes. To treat him, you would have to take that into

A fair number of chaplains turned up to the conference. but most of those present were medical professionals. None, so far as I could tell, were the fundamentalist, miracle-believing type of Christian surprisingly common among dectors. But all of these hard-headed people knew that souls, or spirits, are as difficult to be rid of as air, though also as hard to pin down. The prevailing spirit of

captured by Julia Neuberger when she said: "I don't know how you define what we're talking about but we sort of know that we can feel it."

"If you can eff the ineffable, it's not ineffable any more," said Stephen Pattison, an Open University lecturer in Social Welfare who also has an MBA and a dog collar as an Anglican priest. Spirituality he saw as something not necessarily benevolent: "For a lot of people

'If you can eff the ineffable, it's not ineffable any more,' said a delegate at the conference

in the NHS at the moment, the organisation is something like concentration camp." For him, it was quite clearly a question of collective morale, or spirit. The concepts permeate our language. But, he said, the original Christian understanding of spirits was that they were tightly bound to particular places and people. They were not immortal, nor capable of life independently of the physical things which nourished them. The book of Revelation, for instance, is addressed to the "angels" of four churches, not to their

addresses, the angel of the church in Smyrna, no longer exists, he said, since the church there no longer does. If this seems exotic and barbarous, ask yourself who or what exactly is being addressed when a politician talks to the people. He is not simply talking to an aggregate of names in the phone book, which is why it is possible to get a comic effect by pretending that he is.

So the moral of the meeting may seem simple: all we have to do is find some of this ineffable spirituality, draw up a definition of it that is sufficiently broad, and then write that into the NHS, the BBC and all the other organisations that now seem to have lost their souls. Some such programme was proposed by Pamela

Reed, an American academic who produced research to show that religious practice is good for your health. Those who pray live longer; those who wrestle with God recover better from depression. But what prayers? Which God? These are notoriously questions with answers that are not just incompatible. but mutually incomprehensible This is true even with reli-

gions: it is difficult to imagine a belief system that would even be spacious enough to fit in all the varieties of Judaism, from the ultra-orthodox to Julia Neuberger. The religious imagguage: we are all born with the ability to learn language in general, but we grow up learning particular languages and these are mutually exclusive. A Martian might conclude from this that all languages are false or nonsensical, just as a rabid atheist can conclude from the incompatibility of religious beliefs that they are all false. But the Martian misunderstands the uses of language, and the atheist the uses of religion. None the less, there is no universally applicable spirituality, any more than there is a universal language. For a Muslim, spirituality involves the annihilation of the self in God; for an Orthodox Jew it is the use of ritual to sanctify every detail

ination seems to be like lan-

of ordinary life. Spirituality resembles language in another respect: it shapes its users. There is no standard human nature on to which different languages or religions can be draped, as on a mannequin. The ideas we use help shape the world we see; and it, in turn, shapes us. This implies that spiritualities die, as languages do. We cannot enter into the thought-world of the Vikings, who believed no boat could be successfully launched except over the body of a slave. Nor can we believe in the Roman gods, though Stephen

Pattison suggested that strate-

gic planning in a modern cor-

poration served much the same

purpose of anxiety reduction as

the Roman habit of slaughter-

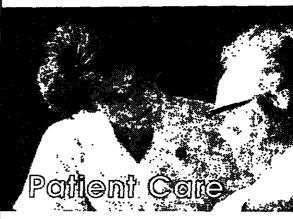
ing birds in times of crisis to examine their entrails for hints about the future - and was about as reliable. We cannot even, most of us, get back to Christianity. For Roger Scruton, who

also spoke at the conference, the death of the old spiritualities is probably irreversible, at least among intellectuals. "Most people can't think, and shouldn't try to; for them it is still possible to re-enchant the world." But thoughtful people, he said, would have to try to live with a world from which science and Darwin had drained the possibility of lasting significance. They might pray and fast, and this would be good for them. It would help them face their own deaths, but it would not return to them the hope of

However bleak, this was not a vision of a world without soul. And if spiritualities can die, like languages, they can also emerge, as languages do. Something of the sort is clearly happening now, with those spontaneous shrines beneath the trees in Kensington

No one has yet written a grammar of this new thing which could be translated into existing concepts. But perhaps that is because we all speak in fragments of the new language without codifying it. If we can understand the human significance of a motorcycle in a cancer ward, then a new language really is beginning to coalesce.

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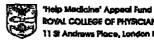
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24/OBITUARIES

Jack May

jack May, actor: born Henleyon-Thames 23 April 1922; married Petra Davies (one son, one daughter); died Hove I9 September 1997.

Nelson Gabriel, the suave antiques dealer and wine-bar owner in the long-running radio serial The Archers, was a role that the actor Jack May played for 45 years. He took the part in 1951, when he joined as son of the waggish Walter Gabriel, and made him into a character famed for his underhand business methods. "He's not a crook but he's a bit of a rogue," May once said.

The star's voice was familiar to children as Igor, the butler, in the animated television series Count Duckula, whose characters were also voiced by actors such as David Jason and Ruby Wax, but his bestremembered screen performance was playing the valet Simms alongside Gerald Harper in the Sixties fantasy series .4dam Adamant Lives!

Born in Henley-on-Thames in 1922, May was educated at the Forest School, Essex, and had ambitious to go into a career that would suit his extrovert qualities. "Barrister, archbishop, prime minister -Mrs Thatcher could have been my Chancellor of the Exchequer - or quite possibly the theatre." he said years later.

However, after serving in India during the Second World War and teaching for a year on his return. May turned down a scholarship to Rada to study at Merton College, Oxford. Acting with the Oxford University Dramatic Society convinced him that his future lay on the stage and he subsequently made his professional début with Colchester Repertory Theatre in October 1950, playing Titinius in Julius Caesar. He moved on to the prestigious Birmingham Rep (1950-55), where he took leading roles in Richard II, Uncle Vanya and Moon on the Yellow River.

In 1952, while acting in Birmingham, May was approached by the producer Tony Shryane to join the cast of The Archers, a year after the farming serial made its début on the BBC Light Programme, He remained in the role of Nelson Gabriel, the well-spoken son of the villager Walter Gabriel. until January 1997, when ilihealth forced him to leave.

The Archers' recording schedules left May plenty of time to do other work. On stage, he became the first actor to play Henry, consecutively, in the three parts of Henry VI, in Birmingham Rep's productions both in Birmingham and for a season at the Old Vic, London, in 1953. His West End roles included the Headmaster in A Voyage Round My Father (Haymarket Theatre, 1971), Martin Knight in At the End of the Day (Savoy Theatre, 1973), and Colonel Pickering in Pygmalion (1974).

May's feature films included There Was a Crooked Man (1960), A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1966), The Man Who Would Be King (as the District Commissioner, 1975), The Seven Percent Solution (1976), The Return of the Soldier (1982), The Shoot-

ing Party (1984), The Bounty (as the Prosecuting Captain, 1984) and The Doctor and the Devils (as Dr Stevens, 1985).

On television, he acted Shakespearean roles in both An Age of Kings (1960) - running the Bard's plays together to cover 86 years of English history and the lives of seven monarchs - and The Spread of the Eagle (1963, featuring Shakespeare's Roman plays). He also played Major Quadring in the sci-fi series A for Andromeda (1961) and appeared in The Verdict Is Yours (1962-63), a Granada Television series of unscripted trials, each over three days, and a forerunner to the company's long-running Crown Court.

May's face became most familiar to television viewers as the valet Simms, helping Gerald Harper to swashbuckle his way through two series of crime and villainy in Adam Adamant Lives! (1966-67). Produced by Verity Lambert, the programme starred Harper as the Edwardian gentlemanadventurer Adam Llewellyn de Vere Adamant, who had been drugged and frozen alive in a block of ice by his archenemy, "The Face", in 1902 before thawing out 64 years later to find himself in London during the Swinging Sixties, complete with strip clubs, protection rackets and unruly youth.

Writers such as Tony Williamson, Brian Clemens, Robert Banks Stewart and Vince Powell and Harry Driver worked on the programme and the directors included Ridley Scott and Moira Armstrong. Juliet Harmer played Harper's mini-skirted dollybird sidekick,

the chirpy girl-about-town Georgina, in a partnership that had echoes of Steed and Emma Peel in The Avengers. With May as Harper's valet, William E. Simms, the programme also had elements of Batman.

Later, he was beard as the voice of the butler Igor in the children's series Count Duckula (1988-91), a spin-off from Dangermouse, which had been created by the writer Brian Thueman and the singer Mike Harding. Both series were made by the highly revered Cosgrove Hall Productions. Whereas Dangermouse was a spoof of James Bond films and comicstrip superheroes, Count Duckula - featuring the duck that pulled hats out of rabbits - offered young audiences horror stories and creepy-castle set-

tings, and was applauded by critics for the quality of its comedy. May also made guest apearances on television in Doctor Who (as General Hermack, 1969), The Life and Times of David Llovd George, Shoestring, The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1981), The Cleopatras (1983), All Creatures Great and Small (as a drunken vicar), Jeeves and Wooster (also as a vicar, 1990) and Danielle Steel's The Ring (1996).

Married to the actress Petra Davies, May was an antiques dealer with a shop in Islington, north London, for many years. - Anthony Hayward

Every Archers listener has a favourite character, writes James Fergusson. Mine has always been

Nelson Gabriel. Nelson was raffish, cool, sardonic, faintly disreputable.

He brought a smooth urban loucheness to the dim lanes of Ambridge. Most of the male Archers characters are, it must be admitted, wimps: there is a hangdog desperation about them as they slip off to the Bull or, worse still, the Cat and Fiddle, while their assertive

wives make tea and curse them

over the kitchen stove. They are

hen-pecked, soft-bellied, predictable. The only thing predictable about Nelson was that, despite his surface steadiness, he was almost certainly up to no good. You could love him. but you couldn't trust him further than the wine-bar door. Nelson had been in prison. He was dodgy. He disappeared from time to time. Inside the world-wearily affable mine bost at that wine bar was a mad playboy who had, by the end, givother.

en up trying to break out, and he knew it. He was born in 1933, the books tell us. His grandfather was the village blacksmith. His father, Walter (1896-1988), was the one with the silly voice -"Hello me old pal, me old beauty" - who conducted a dingdong romance with Mrs P (Polly Perkins) for an eternity. The appallingly behaved Nelfurniture. son was the apple of his father's

Walter was a farmer who took up making rocking chairs in his old age. Nelson was a lad who liked wine, women, Jaguars and luxury craises. He did his National Service in the RAF (ground staff, whatever he said, not airborne) and then lost £6,000 of his father's pools winnings in an engineering

business in the early Sixties. He

escaped the courts after forging a co-director's signature on a document, but not after he later masterminded a mail-van robbery. He was tried at the as-

sizes and, by sheer luck, acquitted. Like most of Nelson's ventures, the robbery didn't come off. He was at various times involved in betting shops and property. But his principal concerns were an antique business, first with Lilian Bellamy (widow of Ralph, the last squire of Ambridge), then with Kenton Archer (twin sister of Shula), and the wine bar, which closed down at least once. He was arrested for receiving stolen, goods at the one, and narrowly prevented from setting up a sauna and massage parlour-(with Clarrie Grundy as the unlikely chief massense) at the

In later life, ever more genial, he settled in his father's black-and-white thatched Honevsuckle Cottage, to the north of Ambridge village green. He conceived a passion for the local "toff" Nigel Pargetter's alcoholic mother, Julia, dispensed cynical advice to the young and ripped off the Archers when they sold him

He never married, but had an illegitimate daughter, Rosemary, who turned up, to his horгот, as a trainee police cadet.

Jack May played Nelson Gabriel for an astonishing 45 years, and could surely never be replaced. I was an extra in a film with him once, Goodbye Mr Chips (1969). As far as I was then concerned he was not Nelson at all, but Simms, Adam Adamant's valet.



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May: The Archers' raffish, cool Nelson Gabriel

Georges Guétary

Lambros Worloou (Georges Guetary), singer, dancer and Egypt 8 February 1915; married 1955 Jeanine Guyon (one son, one daughter); died Mougins (Alpes-Maritimes). France 13 September 1997.

One of the tourist sights of prewar Paris was the spectacle of the legendary chanteuse Mistinguett negotiating the glittering cascade of steps as she made her entrace on the vast plateau of the Casino de Paris. her diamanté-gloved right hand grasping in terror the reassuring left forearm of Maurice Chevalier or Jean Gabin.

They were her favourite "Boys". When Chevalier left she had accused him of trying to make her stumble, a not infrequent faux pas as she stalked and tottered around in absurdly high heels – his place was taken by a succession of personable young chorus boys who became known as the quadrille. Their most glamorous member was the singer and dancer Georges Guétary, who, while respectful enough to "la Miss"

on stage, teased the ageing star in her spangled boas and panoplies of rainbow ostrich feathers top and bottom by calling the quadrille of "les Boys" "four gigolos". But such was the warm good-nature of Guétary, his teasing was always tender, and la Miss adored him, as did many of the ladies (and some of the gentlemen) who fell under his irresistible

Part of Guétary's exotic charm, and much of his stage persona as a "Latin lover" with a voice of Crème Chantilly resided in his mischievous innocence combined with an erotic mystery inherent in his ancestry. His parents were Greek. They emigrated to Egypt, where Georges was born and brought up in Alexandria

He was haptised Lambros Worloou at the Greek Orthodox Church. So be had a background similar to that of one of my favourite poets, Constantine Cavaty, who lived most of his life in Alexandria, where he died in 1933. It is quite possible that Guetary knew him. This connection, however slight, was



Guétary: velvety voice Photograph: Moviestore

enough to stimulate my interest in the singer when he arrived after the war in London, where Cavafy's poems had begun to be translated. As a child, Georges was an

ardent filmgoer, and he was taught the rudiments of music. His father was a figure in the textile industry, and intended his son to follow in his footsteps. So Georges dutifully attended the Chadbi School of Commercial Studies, one of the best Greek schools in Alexandria. In 1937, his father dispatched him to Paris, to further

his knowledge of commercial procedures. But instead of attending to business Georges went to the music school run by the great violinist Jacques and the pianist Alfred Cortot. Thibaud advised him to take lessons from the singer Ninon Vallin, who gave him a good classical training, so that before he ever began singing popular songs he became an accomplished performer of the lieder of Schubert, Schumann, Fauré and Duparc.

His first appearance on stage was in 1937 at the Européen as a soloist with Jo Bouillon's band, where he was "discovered" one night by the eagle-eyed Mistinguett, who fell for his dimpled smile's almost phosphorescent brilliance, and for his velvety voice. He started appearing as her cavalier at the Casino de Paris in 1938, and was an immediate

popular success. Guétary began making his first recordings at this period. and with the outbreak of the Second World War went on tour as a solo singer and also in revue and operetta, in which genre he was to make his name.

His first role in operetta was in 1942, in Toi, c'est moi.

As the war progressed and France suffered under the Nazi occupation, Georges thought it would be prudent to move south, to Toulouse, where he got a job as maitre d'hotel at Belossi's, then one of the leading restaurants of la ville rose. He staved at the Hôtel Victor Hugo, singing "Sérénade Portuggise" and Timo Rossi's big hit "Veni-veni-veni" to anyone who would listen. His voice charmed even the Gestapo. The accordeonist Fredo Gardoni took him on tour, thus re-activating

Georges' career. He was very popular in the Toulouse region, with its memories of the great tango composer Carlos Gardel. The public loved his "Mediterranean" voice, rolling its "r's" like the River Garonne running over its pebbles. It was while he was in Toulouse that he was advised to change his name. He became Georges Guetary, after the Basque town, a change that displeased many Basque patriots and performers who had staked their reputations on being true Basques.

Paris, where he starred in a long series of operettas. Among the most successful were La Route years from 1952, Pacifico (three-year run), La Polka des lampions (three years) and Monsieur Carnaval (three years at the Châtelet, the temple of operetta). He even did a turn with the Cirque Bouglione,

singing his most beloved num-

bers and performing a haute

école number. His recordings

sold by the millions: "Bolero". "Bambino", "Ce Soir à Mexico", "Chiquito", "Le Petite bal du samedi soir", "Samba brezilienne" and all the hits from international operetta. He also made films directed by Gilles Grangier: Le Cavalier noir. Les Aventures de Casanova, The Gypsy Baron (1954), Le Chemin du paradis (1955), Une Nuit aux Baléares (1956), in which he attempted to catch up with the younger generation with Georges, viens danser le

> But Guétary also had a successful career abroad, beginning in London, where Sir Charles

In 1943, he moved back to Cochran starred him in Bless the Bride, written with great wit and panache by A.P. Herbert, and with Vivian Ellis's enchanting fleurie ("The Flowery Path") at score. It ran for nearly a thouthe ABC which ran for four sand performances in 1947, and was followed by Latin Quarter (1949) which the British public found a refreshing change from Ivor Novello. In 1950 he played on Broadway in Arms and the Girl, for which he was awarded a Tony as Best Foreign Performer. He went on to Hollywood to appear with Gene Kelly in Vincente Minnelli's An American in Paris (1951), in which he sang

Swonderful". At the age of 80. Georges Guetary returned to one of his old haunts, the Bobino music hall, to give a farewell concert. By then, he had become known affectionately as "The Eternal Young Man". The audience was composed mostly of elderly blue-rinsed ladies crushing a tear beneath thinestone-rimmed eyeglasses as their heartthrob sang with his honeyed tones the ballad of their youth.

I had taken the precaution of asking for an aisle seat, in case I wanted to leave early, but

found myself caught up by the magic of Guétary's 90-minute performance. He even came down into the stalls to wander among his fans as he sang, and he even stopped in front of me as he sang "La Valse des regrets" (music by Brahms) a capella. I was one of the very few men in the audience, though there were a lot of younger girls who had come possibly to hear the songs they had heard their mothers and grandmothers

Georges Guétary was still in good form. He never smoked or drank, and took exercise every day. He kept his voice in trim, too, by vocalising for an hour or so in the afternoons. His charm was intact, though I did notice he had resorted to a neat pastiche. The smile was dazzling as ever, and there was still that naughty twinkle in his eyes as he sang certain songs he must certainly have thought of as slushy to say the least. He kept his art alive by the saving grace of humour, and by never taking himself, or his outrageous operetta roles, too

- James Kirkup

BIRTHS. **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

MEMORIAL SERVICES PULLEN: A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lester William Pullen will be held at Holy Trinity, Bromp-ton, on Monday 13 October at 3pm.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Denths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Inde-pendent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Loudon E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (V.\T extra). OTHER Gazette anments (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or (aved) and are charged at £10 a line. VAT extra. They should be accompa-nied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

TODAY: The Princess Royal, Patron, BT Global Challenge, attends a prace-giong coromony at the Growenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London WI, TOMORROW: The Prince of Wales attends the Annual Battle of Britain Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication in Westminster Abbey, London, The Duke of York, Patron, starts Race at the Royal Yacht Squadron.

Conces, lake of Wight, Changing of the Guard TODAY: The Household Cavairy Mount-ed Regiment mounts the Oricen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham; F Company Scots Guards meuris the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards, TO-MORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am.

Birthdays

sador to Finland, 60; Sir Jeremy Child Bt, actor, 53; Mr John Dankworth, bandleader and jazzman, 70; Mr Ge-offrey Dear, HM Inspector of Constabulary, 60, The Very Rev George Earle S1, 72; Sir Douglas Palconer, former High Court judge, 83; Ms Caroline Flint MP, 36; Mr Mike Hall MP, 45; Mr John Harle, saxophon-ist. 41; The Right Rev Colin James, former Bishop of Winchester, 71; General Sir, Garry Johnson, chairman, International Defence Advisory Board to the Baltic States, 60; Dr Michael Kilborn, cricketer, 35; Miss Sophia Loren, film actress, 63; Miss Anne McIntosh MP, MEP, 43: Prosor Robert McMinn, anatom 74; Miss Jane Manning, soprano, 59; Miss Christine Oddy, MEP, 42; The Right Rev Kenneth Riches, former Bishop of Lincoln, 89; Mr Eric Sayers, former chairman, Duport, 81; Mr Alan Simpson MP, 49; Sir John Whitehead, former ambassador to TOMORROW: Mr Ian Albery, im-

presario, 61; Ms Candy Atherton MP, 42; Lord Barnard, former Lord-Licutenant of Durham. 74: Mr Charles Clarke MP, 47; Mr Leonard Cohen, singer and poet, 63; Miss Shirley Conran, novelist, 65; Miss Mary Fetherston-Dilke, former organiser of the Citizens' Advice Bureaux, 79; Mr Larry Hagman, actor, 66; Professor James Ham, former president, University of Toronto, 77; Mr John Hoddinott, Chief Constable, Hampshire, 53; Sir Cotin Im-ray, former High Commissioner to Bangladesh, 64; Mr Stephen King, novelist, 49; Sir Hugh Lloyd-Jones, Emeritus Professor of Greek, Oxford University, 75; Sir Ian MacGregor, former chairman of the National Coal Board, 85; Sir Peter Matthews, former chairman of Vickers, 75: Six John Smith, former Deputy Com-missioner, Metropolitan Police, 59:

Sir Brian Unwin, president, Euro-pean Investment Bank, 62; Professor Bernard Williams, philosopher, 68; TODAY: Mr David Burns, ambas-Mr Jimmy Young, radio presenter, 74.

TODAY: Births: Alexander the Great, 356 BC; Kenneth More, actor, 1914. Deaths: Jean Julius Christian Sibelius, composer, 1957; Jule Styne (Julius Kerwin Stein), song-writer and composer, 1994, On this day: Salisbury Cathedral was consecrated, 1258; six Victoria Crosses were awarded for gallantry at the Bat-tle of Alma, 1854; the liner Queen Elizabeth II was launched at Clydebank, 1966. Today is the Feast Day of St Candida of Carthage, Saints Fausta and Evilasius, Saints Theodore. Philippa and their Com-panions, St Vincent Madelgarus and the Martyrs of Korea. TOMORROW: Births: Herbert

George Wells, novelist, 1866; Gustav Holst (Gustavus Theodore von Holst), composer, 1874, Deaths: Virgil (Publius Vergilius Maro), poet, 19 BC; Sir Walter Scott, nov-clist, 1832; Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, 1860. On this day: Britain abandoned the Gold Stan-dard, and the pound fell from \$4.86 to \$3.49, 1931. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Matthew the Apos-tle, and St Maura of Troyes.

Lectures

National Gallery: Norman Condy. "Septuagenarians (3): Bassano, The Purification of the Temple", 12 noon. National Portrait Gallery: Moyo Corcoran, "Andy Warhol: the artist TOMORROW

Tate Gallery: Picasso and Bacon: ed cries and silent laughter".

FAITH & REASON

Something new in a million at a Mass

The Pope seems to draw ever larger crowds. Yet Catholicism, like all major denominations, is ever less popular. Andrew Brown explores the paradox and concludes that people want spirituality, not religion.

The Pope's visit to Paris last month was quite extraordinary. Probably over a million people turned out to hear him at the Longchamp race course. It is possible that there were as many people in that one congregation as there were in all the Church of England congregations in England that weekend. What made it all the stranger was that the Catholic Church in France seems to be an empty husk. The shortage of priests is immense and growing: there are fewer than 100 vocations every year, and only one in 20 of the priests in France is under the age of 40. I do not know how many are over 70, but it would be surprising if there were not more termess between Left and Right with- by their relative success. of them than of the comparative

whippersnappers of 35 or so.

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I tried in August, it appeared that one priest was looking after 35 villages. This is not exceptional; and nor is it a situation that can be long sustained. Either the number of priests must rise, or the number of faithful will diminish to

match the number of priests available. So how is one to reconcile the huge personal triumph of the Pope with the picture of a retreating church? One answer, which used to be heard more ofwas bringing renewal to a demoralised church, and that with his fresh and vigorous certainties we would make the institution as attractive as he is himself. and the promised renewal is not apwould surely have been some progress

In America and Germany there have been struggles of the utmost bitin the institutional church over its

ber of ancient parishes amalgamated at the heart of its problems in the modinto the care of one priest. In one place era world. But this may be simplistic. Actually the Pope's response to feminism has been far more sophisticated and flexible than he is given credit for.

The real difficulty for the Catholic Church in the modern world may lie in the fact that it is a religion. The extra-Ordinary separation of religion from spirituality is one of those facts so obvious as to be almost invisible. One of the reasons it is difficult to notice is that it is difficult to define. Of course, ten and more loudly, was that the Pope everyone is against "religion", "dogma" and so on. But the spiritual movements to which they may flee demand usually far more credulity and far blinder obedience than mainstream religions. But he has been there for 18 years now, Those sects which manage to be simultaneously traditional and religiously parent. If a tightening up of discipline anti-establishment, like the Anglican had been all the Church needed, there cult of Holy Trinity, Brompton, are distinguished from the more conventionmade by now in restoring the ground lost all parts of the Church precisely by the since the Sixties. But there has not been. greater conformity they demand of their worshippers, the more abundant miracles with which they supply them - and

Damian Thompson, the author and relations with feminism. And it is former religious affairs correspondent What this means in practice can be tempting to suppose that it is the of the Daily Telegraph, has an elegant seen by wandering into a countryside Church's difficulties with feminism theory which points out another and church and seeing how huge is the num- and with sexuality generally which lie perhaps vital difference between "re-

ligious" and "spiritualities". This is that religious are spread vertically, through families; and spiritualities horizontally, through friends. Religions are what our parents believed: spiritualities are what our contemporaries believe. This distinction is a purely sociological one. It says nothing about the content of beliefs. But it does make a prediction: that as families become less and less important as means of cultural transmission, so religions will necessarily decline. The religious imagination will remain a human faculty. It will simply find new expressions, and call these spirituality.

The Pope is a figure who straddles in some respects the divide between religion and spirituality. He is respected as a "spiritual" leader and rejected as a "religious" onc. In these circumstances, gathering practically the entire Catholic population of France to one Mass is not just an impressive feat. It is a wise one. For in a crowd of a million people, Catholicism will seem to the young worshippers something new, something that young people do together, something spiritual. That may be its only hope to survive as a Western religion.

· 'Faith & Reason' is edited by Paul Vallely

SATURDAY

20 SEPTEMBER 1997



25/SHARES

ICI hit by Merrill Lynch downgrading

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

The stock market was ruffled Rue, the struggling security firmer at 420.5p. Turnover was 37.5p to 1,275p. The low vot-sale of the Granada stake to a 23.5p gain and an 18.5p ative advice from leading se- UBS said sell. curities houses.

alytical attention.

ICI fell 32p to 986p with perience some had predicted. Merrill Lynch doing the dam-£365m before exceptionals making up ground lost last this year and £600m next.

Analyst Robyn Coombs is a tious profits statement.

Engineer Siebe gave up

by a sudden outpouring of neg-printer, fell 5.5p to 399.5p as brisk.

Imperial Chemical Indus- an uneventful session with the are the reason for the action. tries, Siebe and De La Rue futures expiry, although cre- Although such a deal could run were three singled out for an- ating active trading, failing to into competition problems - Savoy shareholder but be- 58.5p on talk it was near to a croding profits created the

Footsie was higher in early age, downgrading its recom- trading but soon turned red. move from sugar into a much mendation from buy to It ended down 22.4 points at more broadly based sweetener neutral. It has, however, left its 5.023.8. Still, over the week it group could offer opportuniprofits estimates unchanged - has advanced 198, more than

little nervous of ICI's third- markably strong farewell to At one time the shares were quarter trading this year and Footsie. It is one of five blue up 10.5p. But as reports of the points out the American Union chips losing their Footsie tragedy came in they fell back, Carbide group produced a cau-membership to make way for ending 8.5p lower at 836p. new recruits.

28p to 1,145.5p with Société are often fairly subdued but 819p following upbeat meet-Générale Strauss Turnbull T&L was at one time 11.5p ings with analysts. Savoy Ho-

Stories of a bid from cash The rest of the market had rich Associated British Foods "monopolistic nightmare" there are suggestions T&L's

ties for a deal to be struck with monopoly authorities. Railtrack's progress was Tate & Lyle made a re- derailed by the Southall crash.

Granada, the leisure and The final Footsie hours showbiz group, added 15p to

ing shares have fallen from a a flotation, leaving the Savoy loss. The shares ended un-1,597.5p peak this year on as an independent company. changed at 1,054p. The dedisappointment Granada has failed to find a buyer for its another set of poor figures next a subsidiary and worries about

only 42 per cent of the votes. Various rumours have circulated; ranging from a trade



stake. It is by far the biggest week, edged forward 2p to the holiday industry price war produce the roller coaster ex- one analyst described it as a cause of the group's two tier break-up of its struggling shoe turbulence. voting structure accounts for shops chain. It was reported that company doctor David James, in charge of the sprawling shoes operation, had concluded a piecemeal sale was the best option. Any such deal could produce an exceptional charge of around £100m.

On Thursday Sears, which plans to demerge its Selfpected to produce an interim profits warning. loss in the region of £6.5m. come down from 96p last year.

Airtours, the packaged hol-

Sears, expected to disclose parture of two directors from

Newcomer Computer-Land, placed at 100p, traded up to 120p.

Prism Leisure was the day's main casualty, crashing 85p to 82.5p. It said year's results would be lower than expected. Finance director Robert Skelton is leaving although his departure was said ridges department store, is ex- to be unconnected with the

ASW, the steel group, re-Last year's interim was a mained in the bid spotlight, £16.8m profit. The shares have gaining a further 2.5p to 39p. There was confusion whether 12 per cent stakeholder Usinor

TAKING STOCK

Fairfield Enterprises, a supplier of packaging and printing machinery has £4m in the bank and could soon be on the take over trail. Its shares were introduced to the market last month; they have risen from 117.5p to 135.5p. Stockbroker Teather & Greenwoood expect steady profits progress. It is looking for £2.3m this year and £2.7m

There is rumoured to be boardroom unrest at European Mining Finance. The shares have fallen from 27p last month to 20p, off 1p yes-

DATA BANK

905.7m Seaq trades:

	suggesting investors should	d T&L was at one time 11.5p d higher. It later lost some of its a exuberance, closing 6.5p	tel, which this week recorded	55 SONDJFMAMJJAS	Airtours, the packaged holidays group, had a topsy tur- vey session, swinging between	12 per cent statemonder Usmor Sacilor, a French group, had de- nied any interest in bidding.	47,130
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26/BUSINESS

SuperSIB snubs City by plumping for Docklands

SuperSIB, the City's mega watchdog, will not be located in the Square Mile. It has told 2,000 staff how to get to its proposed new office in London's Docklands but failed to name the senior figures who will report to new chairman, Howard Davies.

Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, reports.

SuperSIB snubbed the City vesterday, choosing a building in Docklands to house the enlarged financial regulator from the start of next year. The move, greeted with resigned acceptance by the staff of the new City watchdog, is a big blow to the Corporation of London, which was unable to provide a large enough building quickly or cheaply enough.

The decision came as senior regulators admitted privately that there had been a delay in naming senior appointments to the watchdog, leaving the heads of the self-regulatory organisations on tenterbooks as to whether they would have a place in the new regime.

The decisions, expected this week, will not receive approval from the Chancellor's office for another two weeks it has been estimated.

The delay is an embarrassment for Mr Davies just days after Colette Bowe, head of the

Personal Investment Authority (PIA), indicated she did not want to be considered for any of the senior positions to be filled. It is also not clear how keen others such as Imro's Phillip Thorpe or the SFA's Richard Farrant will be to exchange control of their fiefdoms for a lieutenant's position in the

new monolith. There are further concerns about how successful a new structural model for the new watchdog will be. Mr Davies is pushing through a radical shift from a vertical structure, where regulators control all functions from authorisation to investigations and supervision for one type of firm, to a horizontal model where they will oversee, say, authorisation for all

NewRO, as the regulator will be known until a suitable acronym has been agreed, is moving to the last vacant building in the Canary Wharf development, built by the Reichmann brothers at the height of the last property boom and rescued from receivership in 1992. The decision was taken by a meeting of the board of the Securities and Investments Board on Thursday.

financial companies.

A spokesman for the Corporation of London said there was "obvious disappointment" at the decision, which means the unified regulator for activities in the Square Mile will not be located there. He added, however, that the decision was in part a reflection of the City's success - there is simply no accommodation left in the City big enough to satisfy SuperSIB's requirements for around 300,000 sq ft of space to house its 2,000 employees.

The Corporation played down any suggestion that past disagreements between the City and Docklands had flared again over the move. "We are happy that Docklands is there. If it had not been, and if the City had not relaxed its building regulations when it did in the 1980s many firms would have simply moved away to the

Staff at the various regulators that are dotted around the City and Docklands, and which will be folded into SuperSIB next year, were informed yesterday of the decision and supplied with information packs in an attempt to allay fears that they were being asked to move to the south-east's own version

Continent.

Howard Davies said: "After an exhaustive search, we have concluded that Canary Wharf offers the best available accommodation for us. The space is flexible, the price is right and, crucially, we can put all our staff together on one site in just a year's time."

NewRO will take on the regulatory responsibilities of a range of watchdogs, including the Bank of England, SIB, Imro, the PIA, SFA and DTI. The combining of the regulators will take place next year despite Royal Assent for a new Financial Services Act not being possible for two more years.

The financial markets' view



Liberty restores dividend despite losses

Liberty, the upmarket retailer, lost more than one-fifth of its average weekly sales following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The group closed its flagship Regent Street store for the best part of two days on Sunday 31 August when the company learned of the Princess's death and for the morning of her

funeral the following Saturday. Ian Thomson, Liberty's managing director, said yesterday the decision to close the store lost the group more than £200,000 in sales which would not be recovered and trading in the week following the funeral was below normal.

Speaking as the company restored its dividend, but moved into trading losses for the six months to August, Denis Cassidy, chairman, said the strength of sterling against the yen had depressed the Japanese tourist trade at Regent Street and the group's Heathrow airport shops.

Mr Cassidy said he was extending the Liberty brand intoshirts and knitwear, in preparation for a big expansion into

airports outside the UK. Airports are about brands. Wellheeled, busy people who fly are the perfect customers." The group is considering opening a shop at Gatwick airport. Liberty said it was talking to Seibu, its Japanese joint venture partner, on overseas expansion and was also in "fairly serious discussions" with operators in East Asia and the Middle East. The company was also considering

expanding in mail order, though it is not "top of the priority list". Liberty has just received

planning permission for the first phase of a three-year, £40m redesign of the Regent Street store, which will include, for the first time, escalators. However, Mr Cassidy was keen to emphasise that the period look of the mock Tudor building would remain. "The escalator will be at the back of the building. It will have no visual impact, but it will improve the flow of people."

The first phase of the refurbishment, which will increase floor space by more than 50 per cent, involves con-

verting a warehouse in Carna-I by Street into offices, freeing in space in the main store. The ven effect shaved around 4 per cent off sales and £500,000. from headline profits. Sales in: the half year to August rose 10 per cent to £27.3m helped by the building society windfalls. A £137,000 trading loss, compared to £777,000 profits last time, reflected £1.2m spend on marketing and the costs of strengthening senior manage-

OCT HARTS . C

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William De Tara de la Propies

May deadline boosts EMU prospects

Last weekend's decision by European finance ministers to fix bilateral exchange rates for EMU next May, eight months given a further boost to the project. But many on our panel believe the optimism is based more on sentiment than reality.

Julian Jessop of Nikko Europe says the result of last weekend's "Ecofin" meeting was widely expected. However, psychologically, it has helped EMU sentiment, if only because it is great when Europeans can agree on anything. Not only are they making monetary union happen, but they are making it happen earlier".

With next week's French budget likely to be accompanied by a forecast that the 1998 budget deficit will fall within the Maastricht target of 3 per cent, Mr Jessop says it is difficult at the moment to see what could after the current positive feel-

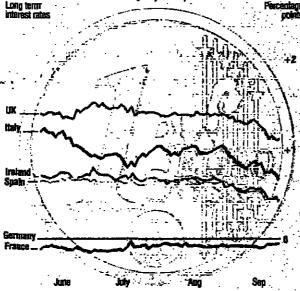
ings about the project. Phillip Chitty of ABN Amro largely supports that analysis, saying the outcome of the meeting should help sway the

doubters. Thereafter, however, the two economists differ. Mr Chitty is encouraged by the prospects for the German economy and the political determination of the French. "We more and more believe [EMU] will be on time on a broad basis, he said. By contrast, Mr Jessop points out that the Germans could still derail the project, with next spring's Bun-

Foreign Exchange Rates



ther countries get to the red baseline (6



TOWARDS EMU: If the line moves towards the German base line it means investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the mark, in other words, they think that country will be locked into

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher initiation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

The Independent asked analysis from: Nikko Europa, Paine Webber, ABN Azoro, JP Morgan, Decischa Morgan Graciei Saloman Brethers, Goldman Sacks, HSBC James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on BAU starting on time.

Probability EMU is delayed: Probability EMU never happens;

(72% tast week) (18% last week)

"the biggest single hurdle that monetary union has to clear". Agreeing that there has been something of an overreaction to the Ecofin meeting. Darren Williams of UBS also

(10% last week)

the rate at which they finally en-

ter EMU must be decided.

all data as of 18 Sept

destag vote to approve EMU highlights the potential for trouble between May, when rates are fixed between currencies, and December, when

-Magnus Grimond

The opening of the domestic timetable for liberalisation reelectricity market to competi- mained tight and that any late tion has hit a further setback with another two regional suppliers warning they would not

meet next April's deadline. East Midlands Electricity and London Electricity have told the industry regulator, Offer, they may not be ready to launch competition in their areas until September of next year. This brings to three the number of suppliers having difficulties adapting their computer systems. The other company is Southern Electric.

News of the latest hold-up came as Offer published a report by its advisers, PA Consulting, warning that the overall

changes to the systems being introduced would result in significant delays.

The aim is to start allowing Britain's 22 million domestic electricity customers to shop around for supplies from next spring. The first four suppliers which expect to be ready are Eastern, Manweb, Seeboard and Yorkshire.

However, the cost and complexity of installing the computer systems that will allow suppliers to talk with one another, new entrants and the electricity pool is causing in-

creased worries: A-spokeswoman for Offer

said that if detailed design requirements changed it could have a significant impact on the overall programme.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the head of Offer, warned that with just over six months to go, much still remained to be done, although he welcomed the progress made so far.

Offer has written to East Midlands and London and asked what they are doing to bring themselves back on line.

Earlier this week Midlands Electricity confirmed it had abandoned a multi-million pound computer system after concluding that it would not be ready in time for next April. -Michael Hanison

quest for new enterprises

of Channel 5, yesterday accused the BBC of stifling competition as it entered the new media age.

Mr Elstein's broadside came as it emerged the BBC was to pump around £10m of public money into its online services. Speaking at the Royal Television Society's biennial conference in Cambridge, Mr Elstein said: "You're going to have to rethink what the BBC is there for. Is it a commercial enter-

prise or a public broadcaster?" He said the BBC's 24-hour news service, which is funded by licence payers' money and launches later this year, threatened to put other news operators out of business. "There are three 24-hour news services -CNBC, CNN and Sky News," he said. "The BBC's will be the fourth, funded with £30m a year which is more than any of the

called the Reduction In Yield others have." (RIY), expressed as the aver-Mr Elstein said the BBC age percentage amount taken should be regulated more effectively and but none of the competition authorities had unit-linked investments shows the power to crack down on it.

However, David Docherty, deputy director of television at BBC Broadcast, dismissed Mr Elstein's concerns, saying it was impossible to separate the

Oct Lee-Outle (CNE) S/40k b Peb Pork Belles (CNE) S/40k b Nov. Orange Jule (CTN) S/10k b Oct Mik (CSC) S/50k b Dec Osta (CST) S/5k bsh

David Elstein, chief executive commercial projects from the public service. "It is much more complicated than that. By virtue of creating TV and radio programmes, you create com-

mercial assets." Answering Mr Elstein's claims that the BBC was insufficiently regulated, Mr-Docherty said the corporation was "subject to close scrutiny by the Government".

The BBC's head of online services, Edward Briffa, was. asked what justification he had for using licence payers' money to move into media such as the Internet. He replied: "The same justification we had in 1945 when we moved into television.":

Mr Briffa is overseeing the creation of online versions of several well-known BBC programmes. Crimewatch will soon: make an appearance on the In-. ternet where users will be able to access a database of majorunsolved crimes in Britain. An EastEnders chat forum is also to be launched imminently.

The BBC's 24-hour news venture ran into controversy last month when several cable op-erators indicated they would drop Sky News in favour of the, corporation's services. - Cathy Newman

at 5:30pm

Duc White Malze (SAF) \$/100 mt 79700 Sep Rubber (TCM) Y/ 5k kg 10870 . Dec Cotton (CTN) \$/50k b 73.85 Oct Crude Pelm (KLC) \$/25 m 137900 Dec Soye 09 (C81) \$/60k to 23.97

The cost of pensions starts to fall

Costly product charges levied But some companies have resison pensions by many of the UK's top insurance companies may be starting to come down,

according to new research. The drop comes three years after the introduction of rules from the Securities and Investments Board, the City regulator, designed to foster greater

ted cutting charges, according to a study by Money Marketing magazine. Sandra Grandison, who edited the survey, said: "There is evidence costs are be-

ginning to come down." Research by Money Marketing shows the annual cost of many pensions is reducing. The fall in management costs is competition among insurers.

Liffe Financial Futures

the typical cost of a personal pension for someone aged 60 has tumbled from an RIY of 5.9 per cent to 5.1 per cent. -Nic Ciautti

out of a policy each year.

The survey of life insurers'

Industrial Metals 1655 1460 2134 631 8500 5630 3200 2600 7800 850 3500 4600 4000 1628.5 1440 2113 622 5405 5660 723750 5550 298925 121000 60030 11535 423525 Precious Metals 48350 350 8500 Pistrum 26600 300 7200 18100 400 7050 Pistrum 1856 145 4440 463 005 -041 Siver 286 002 -037 32083 040 -625 Agricultural LIFFE \$40000 Nov67 149000 Junes 150300 Marss 149600 Voi: 2005 Freight LIFFE Channe 5/25k kg 64700 64830 65450 Nov97 Jan98 Mar96 Vol: Wheel LIFFE Nov97 Jen98 Mar98 Vol: LIFFE 5080xpt Octor 1435.00 Nover 1490.00 Jange 1485.00 Vols 71 \$1500 31500 31600 32050 2136 CBOT S/Sk benie Nov97 2300 Jan98 Mar96 1890 Vot: 1499 CBCT Cents/bahl Oct97 Dec97 Mar96 Volt 67:10 89:00 91:05 29:5 28550 27425 27900 0

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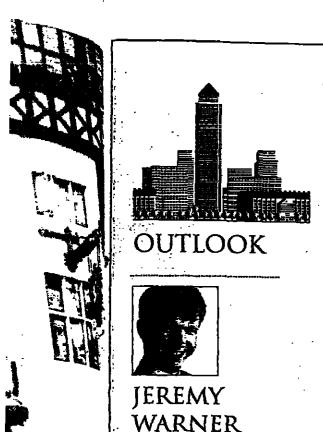
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Source: Bloomberr

27/BUSINESS



WH Smith opts for the Handover solution

Having scoured the world for a new chief that do it better; and as a gift shop it is executive, WH Smith has finally settled on someone who's been sitting there in the backyard all along. The City was as underwhelmed by news of Richard Handover's appointment as everyone else. It may seem a bit of a cheap shot to describe this company man of 32 years service as just a glorified paper boy, but that is where Mr Handover has earned his reputation - on the newspaper wholesale and distribution side of the group.

To be fair, he seems to have made a pretty good fist out of this unglamorous enterprise in the two years he's been doing the job. It is one of the few parts of the group on an improving trend right now. Nor is Mr Handover devoid of retail experience. Before his present incarnation he was managing director of WH Smith's Our Price offshoot, where he was instrumental in the merger with Virgin Retail. So it would be wrong to write him off.

All the same, judging by what he was saying yesterday he doesn't seem to have much of a plan for reshaping the main retail chain or for addressing its underlying weaknesses - chief of which is that nobody knows what sort of a store WH Smith is meant to be any longer. If it is a newsagent, it is under vicious attack from the supermarkets; if a book or record store, there are others scarcely worth bothering with. No amount of the "basic retail discipline" Mr Handover promises to inject into the chain is going to solve this fundamental difficulty with the WH Smith formula. It's just out of date. Nor does the company's explanation of why it took so long to settle on Mr Handover sound entirely plausible.

According to Jerenry Hardie, chairman, it was because the board first had to satisfy itself there was no external candidate better suited to the role. The argument can equally well be stated the other way round, however. If Mr Handover was so self evidentily right for the job, why didn't the board go for him immediately? Whatever he does, Mr Handover will find it hard to bury the suspicion that he was always second or third

Whatever else may be said about him, at least Mr Handover has got one thing in his favour. With 32 year's service behind him, he's plainly not a quitter. The same could not be said of his predecessor, Bill Cockburn, who took just eighteen months to decide that running a business in the real world of harsh commercial competition was not for him. He's now back at British Telecom, which like his previous company, the Post Office, is essentially a monopoly. There's little doubt about who's got the tougher assignment.

leaked Whitehall memos yesterday, I came across a copy of a draft letter from Yony Blair to Bill Clinton musing on the subject of globalisation. Though this letter has not yet been sent, I believe it only right and proper in the interests of open government to reproduce it here.

"Dear Bill, I don't know whether you noticed, but apparently Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse are to merge to create the world's largest accountancy practice. I have to say that I am wholeheartedly behind this sort of corporate response to the progressive integration of the world economy and I think we should both be doing our bit to ensure the competition authorities don't stamp on it.

Funnily enough, I've rather been thinking along the same lines myself - how do we as governments respond to the increasingly global needs of our clients (ha,ha, only kidding. I mean the people of our two countries, of course). I make the following suggestion, only half in jest. It's all part of my vision to create a global people services powerhouse, which I know you

Why don't we merge our two administrations? The new organisation would be in a position to provide unprecedented service to global, national and local commu-

Sifting through my customary sackful of nities worldwide. Together we could offer a comprehensive range of business assurance, business advisor, tax, management, IT and human resource consulting services and a commitment to helping people wherever they are formulate and implement strategic solutions which drive growth and

improve business performance. Last time we met I could not help but be struck by the compatibility of our cultures and shared vision. We seem both to be committed to offering our electorates world-class capabilities to help them solve increasingly complex business problems they encounter as they expand and glob-

Combining these two great organisations will create a tremendously dynamic professional environment that will provide our clients with the support they need to succeed in the global marketplace and will give us an unparalleled ability to develop and execute innovative and strategic solutions. It makes sense for our clients and it makes sense for our people. I know there are a few little local difficulties involved. For a start there's what to do with our Oueen. Rest assured that I have that one in hand. Then there's Brussels. That wretched man Karel Van Miert, the EC competition commissioner, will block us given the chance. But none of these things are

Bank on the plan, reflecting its

traditional fiscal caution. Yes-

terday 56 aid and environ-

mental organisations sent

Michel Camdessus, managing

director of the IMF, an open

letter protesting at the slow

progress it was making on

officer for the Catholic relief

agency, Cafod, said: "The

British government is throwing

down the gauntlet to those

governments which have re-

peatedly placed obstacles in the

way of speedy debt relief for the

Mr Wolfensohn said yes-

terday: "I think the initiative is

moving, although there are

some differences of view as to

the pace." He denied sugges-

slow and the hurdles too high,

saying that three countries -

Uganda, Bolivia and Burkina

Faso - had their debt reduction

packages agreed with three

more in the pipeline. "I feel

very comfortable in my skin that

we have taken all practical

steps," he said.

tions that the process was too

world's poorest countries."

Henry Northover, policy

offering debt relief.

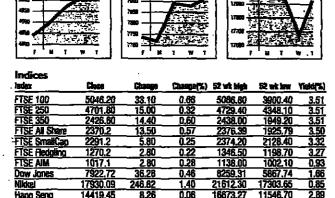
beyond the wit of a clever investment bank like Goldman Sachs. How about it?

Yours, Tony (with apologies to the press release announcing the merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Water-

My colleague Diane Coyle, who is in Hong Kong for the International Monetary Fund meeting, tells me that the World Bank Staff Association has issued a circular to delegates whingeing on about low morale. They would have done well to have kept their grievances (which include such gems as being forced to downgrade from first to club class travel) to themselves. If anything, James Wolfensohn, head of the bank, deserves warm applause for undermining the morale of his comfortable, wellheeled bureaucrats. This is the organisation that used to be known as the Glistening Bank, thanks to the lavish perks staff enjoyed as they doled out aid to some of the world's poorest countries - together with some of its richest criminals in their guise as heads of state.

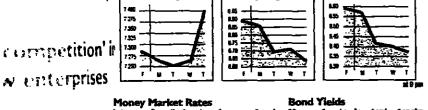
Mr Wolfensohn is only the latest in a line of presidents to try to reform this mammoth bureaucracy. If he has really managed to score such a big hit on staff morale, he might turn out to be the first to actually

STOCK MARKETS



INTEREST RATES

Short sterling



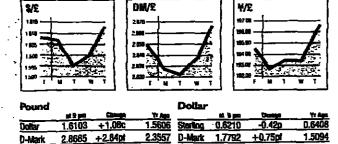
US long bond

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Japan	0.58	0.07	0.64	-0.08	2.18	-0.70	2.84	-0
Germany	3.30	0.20	3.70	0.40	5.53	-0.65	6.17	-0.

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Brit Biotech	168.00	9.50	5.99	RMC Group PLC	998.50	-55.50	-5 <u>.27</u>
- Longho PLC	113.00	5.50	5.12	Body Shop Intl	<u>179.00</u>	-7.50	-4.02
Morrison (WM)	Sup197.00	9.50	5.07	SIG PLC	318.50	-13.00	-3.92

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Wolfensohn defends scheme to give poor countries debt relief

james Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, challenged critics, who claim the year-old initiative to lighten the debt burden on poor countries is faltering, to put their money where their mouth is by voting for increased aid spending. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reports from Hong Kong on the annual meeting of the World Bank and international Monetary Fund.

"Debt forgiveness is an issue of morality, but it is also an issue of money." Mr Wolfensohn said yesterday. He was responding to the charge that the World Bank-IMF plan to reduce debt interest payments by developing countries, announced with much fanfare this time last year, had lost crucial momentum.

Gordon Brown, Chancellor

of the Exchequer, aligned himself with the Bank's critics earlier this week, announcing a seven-point plan to restore the impetus by ensuring that threequarters of the world's poorest countries had started down the debt relief path by 2000.

Mr Wolfensohn said yesterday: "If Gordon Brown would like to make a very large donation, I would be very happy to accept it." He added: "Where does the money come from? It comes back to the governments, and to you as voters and taxpayers. In the end it gets back to you."

But the World Bank president predicted the campaign for debt forgiveness by the end of the millennium would become a more prominent public issue during the next two years. In the UK the Jubilee 2000 campaign, organised by churches and unions, has already been building up a new head of steam. Aid organisations attending

the meetings in Hong Kong this week said the amount of money required to keep the present World Bank-IMF plan - known as the HIPC initiative because more slowly than the World it concentrates on the highly indébted poor countries - was

"The question of money is a red herring because the sums involved in the HIPC initiative are so minimal," said lan Bray, an Oxfam spokesman.

The expected cost of planned debt relief for 19 countries over more than a decade is only \$7bn-\$8.5bn (£4.4bn to £5.3bn) in total, or about half the UK government's likely budget deficit this year. However, the charities wel-

comed Mr Wolfensohn's commitment to the initiative. "He's got a complicated game to play and his heart is definitely in the right place," said Andrew Simms of Christian Aid. "He has staked his personal reputation on it." Mr Bray said: "He's right to

say it is a question of political commitment." One of the reasons for slow progress on debt relief has been the unwillingness of some of the richest countries, notably Germany and Japan, to finance it.

The IMF has also moved

Prism shares crash as finance director quits

Prism Leisure, the computer games group, saw its shares crash from 167.5p to 82.5p yesterday after it warned on current-year profits and said its finance director was leaving at the end of the year. Profits for the year to March would be significantly below current expectations, the company said, after the rise in the value of sterling hit overseas sales. According to Prism, the departure of Robert Skelton is unconnected with the profits warning. In the first six months, sales in the computer software division fell 44 per cent and profits slipped 31 per cent.

Eurocamp marches ahead

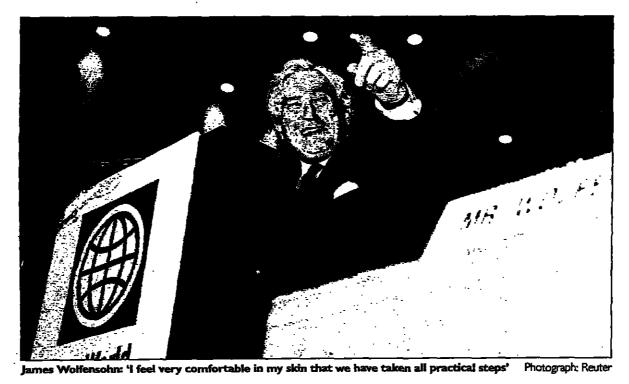
Eurocamp, the camping holiday specialist, said it expected to achieve a solid advance in 1997 compared to the 1996 result, with all sections of the group making a valuable contribution. The company was confident of making further progress in 1998, it said in a trading statement. A spokesman said: "As the summer holidays come to a close we are able to confirm the indications given in our earlier statements of a much improved performance from our camping businesses in 1997."

Chartwell requests order

Chartwell International Group, the business services group which a week ago suspended dealings in its shares on the Alternative Investment Market, has petitioned for an administration order, the purpose of which is to protect the ongoing business of the company. Two administrators have been appointed from Langley & Partners.

DCS buys computer firm

DCS Group has agreed to buy VHA Computers, a systems house supplying services to network and desktop computer users, for £4.5m, funded through cash, loan notes and shares. The latest audited accounts show that VHA achieved a pre-tax profit of £889,000 on turnover of £9.8m for the year ended 31 July. Net assets at that date stood at £947,000.



Thailand under fire from World Bank

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The World Bank yesterday joined the International Monetary Fund in criticising the Thai government for being too slow to react to this summer's currency crisis. Diane Coyle finds that the recent financial turmoil in East Asia is the hottest topic for discussion at the Hong Kong convention centre.

The World Bank and IMF have

confirmed reports that they are

dissatisfied with Thailand's re-

sponse to its financial crisis,

which the international com-

munity is spending \$17bn (£10.6bn) in emergency funds to resolve. Both also say they warned the Thai government earlier this year about the danger its currency would collapse. James Wolfensohn, presi-

dent of the World Bank, said: We would like to see the Thais move more quickly and more definitively." He added that the coalition government's political fragility had prevented faster implementation of policies recommended by the Bank and Fund. "We and others have been commenting on these problems

His remarks followed similar comments by Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, on Thursday, Mr Camdessus said: "We have been

for a long time, but the Thais run

Thailand," he said.

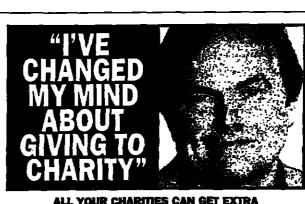
impatient to see the reform of land obviously remains fragile, the financial sector put in motion." He said the Thais had complied with all the macroeconomic policy advice, tightening the government's beit and increasing interest rates.

With Malaysia's Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, and financier George Soros due to speak - separately - this weekend about their sharply opposed views on the recent turmoil in Asia's financial markets, the crisis has become a dominant subject for discussion at the World Bank-IMF meetings.

In a special seminar on Asia run by the IMF yesterday, the head of research. Michael Mussa, said the Thai problems would have been less if the government had acted earlier. "Market confidence in Thaiand the effects have spilt over into other South-east Asian economies. Policies adopted under duress do not carry the same weight with the financial markets." Mr Mussa said.

Speaking at the same seminar Andrew Sheng, deputy chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, defended Hong Kong's adherence to a fixed exchange rate even though it was Thailand's doomed effort to support its exchange rate that triggered the crisis in July.

A large part of the Thai problem is the exposure of its banking system to unhedged foreign currency loans taken out by private sector companies. The reform of the financial sector is seen as the main element of the rescue package.



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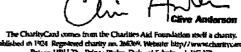
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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

American concedes BA alliance may not get Brussels green light

American Airlines has conceded that its alliance with British Airways may not get approval from the European Commission. Michael Harrison reports on the increasing doubts surrounding the transatlantic link-up.

Bob Crandall, chairman of American Airlines, has given the clearest indication yet that it may be forced to walk away from its long-delayed alliance with BA because of the concessions demanded by the EC's Competition Commissioner Jarel Van Miert.

In a speech to senior airline executives on Thursday night, Mr Crandall attacked the "busy bureaucrats of Brussels" and said of the threat to block the alliance: "It would be a shame and there is no justification for it."

He also indicated that in the 15 months American and BA had been waiting for regulatory approval they had drawn up de-

event of the alliance not being allowed to proceed as planned.

Mr Crandall said the two airlines had learnt a lot about one another since the alliance was first announced in June last year and that they would continue to cooperate in future if the linkup did not go-ahead. His comments, at a dinner

in the Dorchester Hotel in London, arte the closest a senior executive from either airline has come to admitting defeat. Mr Crandall angrily compared the way other alliances between Luthansa, KLM and Sabena and US carriers had been approved with the treatment given to BA and American by the EC competition authorities. "Their activism stands in sharp contrast to the quiescence with which they accepted alliances in Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Brussels," said Mr Crandall.

The dinner, held to coincide with a meeting of the American board in London, had been intended to celebrate the successful launch of the BA alliance.

Would your company like a phone system that ne

tailed continegency plans in the and American could not have anticipated the length of the examintaion launched by Brussels which has stopped the alliance in its tracks.

> Earlier this week Don Carty, the American Airlines president, warned that it would pull out of the merger if Brussels stood by its demand that the two airlines give up 353 take-off and landing slots a week at Heathrow.

Mr Carty said that the price being demanded was not one it was prepared to pay. The Office of Fair Trading has said that BA

Behind American's bellicose able to gain Brussels approval.



But Mr Crandall said BA At loggerheads: Bob.Crandall (left) and Karel Van Miert

and American should relinquish more upbeat however, saying 168 slots - equivalent to 12 that Britain's two EC Comround trips a day. Mr Carty said missioners, Sir Leon Brittan this was as far as American and Neil Kinnock, the Transwould go and then only if it was port Commissioner, supported allowed to sell or lease the slots. the alliance. It was suggested

stance lies a degree of frustra-tion. It is confident that US regcialist prime minister of Belgium, was making a political nlators will approve the alliance issue out of the BA-American because that will pave the way alliance because he has his for a wider open skies agreement eyes set on the EU presidency allowing more US airlines access to Heathrow. But it is disappointed that BA has been un-

when Jacques Santer retires. Meanwhile, BA is facing the threat of being fined by Brussels for anti-competitive behaviour following complaints lodged by Virgin Atlantic that its sales techniques have breached the Treaty of Rome.

An EC spokeswoman in London denied, however, that it had already concluded that BA was in violation of article 86 of the treaty and said hearings would take place towards the end of October at which BA and Virgin could state their respective cases. "There is no truth in the suggestion that the Commission is about to impose fines. We still have to scrutinise replies and comments."



Handover appointed to take the reins at WH Smith

that Richard Handover, who has served the newsagents to record shops group for 32 years, is to fill the position of chief executive. Magnus

the ailing retail group. The group had been rudderless since June, when Bill Cockburn. the former Post Office chief taken on last year to revitalise the company, abruptly resigned to become managing director

latest development at

of British Telecom. The appointment of Mr Handover drew a mixed reaction, with some analysts and investors saying it smacked of desperation after Smith was left unable to find an outsider to fill the job, despite a high-profile recruitment campaign.

That was reflected in the share price, which slipped 6.5p to 368p yesterday. But Jeremy Hardie, Smith's chairman, disaction, saying: "This is a longer term thing than a couple of keep up the momentum of hours. He [Richard Handover] will make a lot of money for us over the next few years, of that I am sure." He also acknowledged no pressure from institutional shareholders to speed the selection process. "This is always a bit of a mystery", he said, "because if people want to express disquiet they can always ring me up. I have not been deluged with a barrage of calls."

Mr Hardie would not confirm that Stuart Rose, a former director of Burton, was ever in the running, but said there had been three external candidates alongside three from within the group. As well as Mr Handover, they included Alan Giles, managing director of the Waterstone's book chain. and John Hancock, head of Smith's US operations. Keith Hammill, finance director, pulled out of the running at the end of July. The internal candidates had all expressed their continuing commitment to the

business, Mr Hardie said. Mr Handover was chosen be-

change started by Mr Cockburg the chairman said. He refused to be drawn on how much Mr Handover would be paid, other than that it would be "related" to that of Mr Cockburn, who

Weits.

picked up £254,000 in 1995-96. Mr Handover is credited with turning round the group's newspaper and magazine wholesale business. He said yesterday his main task was to restore "fundamental retail disciplines" in the main WH Smith Retail operation, including picking out the most profitable lines, which have turned out to be books, magazines and stationery, and starting to sell them more efficiently and in a more exciting way. He said he was "completely supportive" of the efforts of Beverley Hodson, formerly of Boots and Sears, who was appointed to run

the retail business in May. Even so one shareholder, who echoed the thoughts of many, said yesterday Mr Handover's appointment was "a bit of a cop out".

Iverson appoints right-hand man

Shares in Laura Ashley rose 3 per cent yesterday to 54p on the news that David Hoare had been appointed as chief oper-

Mr Hoare, founder of Talisman Management, a private investment firm, will start work immediately and will manage the day-to-day operations of the company.

After the rows which followed Ms Amm Iverson's remuneration last year, Mr Hoare, 47, will not receive a bonus, though he receives undisclosed share options excercisable over five years and which are based on share price

performance. Though the company would not specify Mr Hoare's salary, it said that he would be paid 'significantly less" than Ms Iverson, who earns basic pay of £450,000 a year and the finance

director who earns £325,000. Some analysts questioned Mr Hoare's lack of retailing experience. "What this company needs is management of iron, not unknowns," said one.

However, Ms Iverson, who has come under shareholder pressure after she failed to rejuvenate the group's flagging fortunes, denied this was an issue: "It's not a personality contest here. What this business needs is someone who can give operational support and help me turn the business around. David will provide a solid foun-

dation for that." Asked to comment on Mr Hoare's lack of experience in retailing, Ms Iverson said: That is absolutely ideal. I am the retailer with over three decades of experience. He

brings operational excellence." Ms Iverson said she hoped to appoint a replacement for Basha Cohen, who is resigning as head of design and buying before the year-end. "We are very far ahead on this," she said.

Several analysts said that Mr Hoare's appointment would take pressure off Ms Iverson. "The scale of turning around this company was just too big for one person," said one City

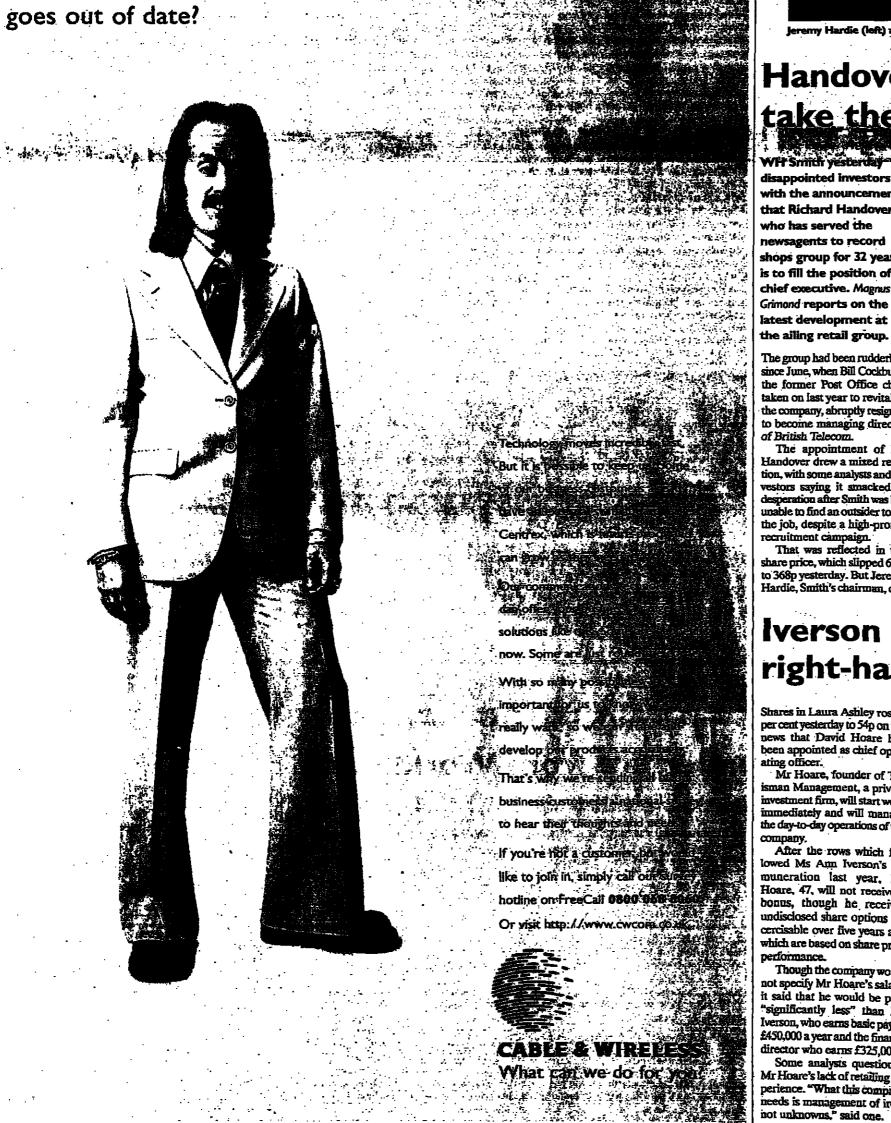
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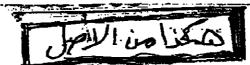
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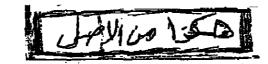
Liberty setback

World Bank and IMF criticise Thai government

Gloom for investors in ICI

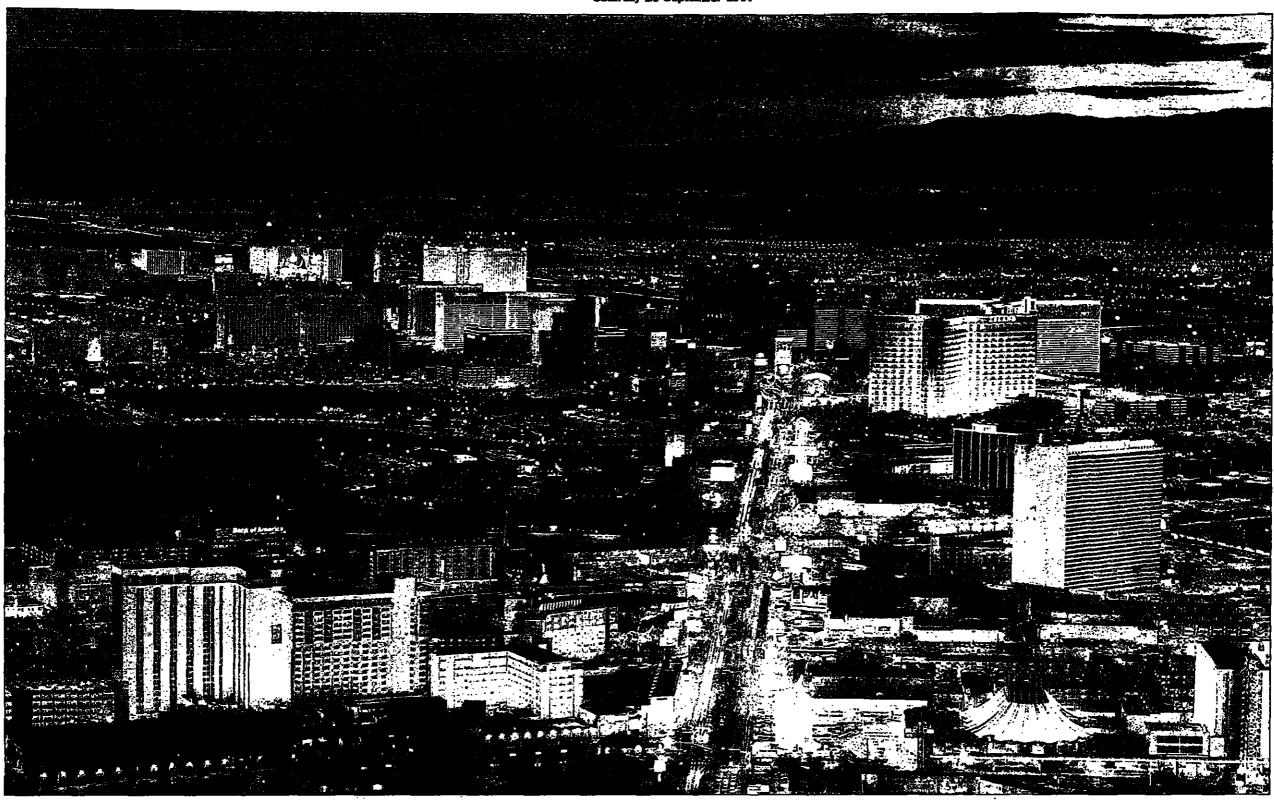






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Fasten your seatbelts, suspend disbelief ... this is La\$ Vega\$

In the trombe l'oeil that thinks it's a city, you can spend your days buried in a pyramid, your nights at the Round Table and spend nothing on entertainment. The world's greatest conglomeration of light bulbs is an unnatural high, as Simon Calder found when he checked in to Vegas and checked out of reality.

heavy-duty batteries and installed the lot

If you think that notion sounds preposterous, just wait until you see Las Vegas. This ludicrous city takes tourism to its gloriously illogical conclusion, and invites the world to a party as endless as the summer.

The moment you realise that reality eludes this corner of the Nevada desert is when, in the midst of a kitsch Arthurian concoction called Excalibur, you see a sign indicating "Moving Walkway to Luxor". The mobile sidewalk wafts you from a climate-controlled version of the English Dark Ages to an equally air-conditioned epitome of ancient Egypt - residing in a hotel-that-thinks-it's-a-pyramid, protected

by a vast, grinning Sphinx. Luxor is as good a place as any to begin the vain but hugely enjoyable task of trying to make sense of Las Vegas. Forget any traditional notions of citydom - the place is really a succession of villages. They are strung out along Las Vegas Boulevard, a four-lane fury stripped down by everyone to the single-syllable "Strip". While each village is obsessively individualistic, they are all linked spiritually by a passion for absurdity.

Imagine. This year, your birthday and Christmas have arrived at once. Your parmany millions of dollars on creating this scary self through and around the coun- (so glitzy they named it twice?). When the ents have bought the entire stock of the nonsense, and you, the visitor, are the win-terfeit conurbation. Besides, Times Square sun finally beds down, beyond the mounlocal tov shop, invested in an extra set of ner. At other US airports, flights to the city and Central Park are protected by the gi-tains that guard Las Vegas from hostile reshow the final destination as La\$ Vega\$. Yet it is easily the cheapest place in Amerin the sunniest place in the world. ica, with most of the attractions being completely free. You can stroke past the Sphinx, wander through the pyramid and take the moving walkway back (and forwards a few centuries) to Excalibur, gratis. Dinner at the Round Table costs more than a couple of groats - but not much more. Competition is as fierce as the heat from

> "Please fasten your seatbelts, return your tray table to the upright position and suspend your disbelief." Even if the stewardess doesn't say that on the final approach to Las Vegas, you will raise your credulity threshold anyway when the aircraft touches down beside Manhattan. Close to the runway, and adjacent to the Anglo-Egyptian complex, someone has seen fit to build New York New York - a hotel so gaudy they named it twice. Despite the collusion of the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building and Chrysler Tower, you

can tell you're not really in the Big Apple

the constant sun, which means that you

need never pay more than £5 on an all-you-

can-eat meal. Gluttony suits the 20th-cen-

tury's biggest monument to conspicuous

consumption rather well.

ant ceiling that squeezes out the sun, creating a kind of Center Parcs for wayward grown-ups. All the usual dimensional reference points are distorted, and any hope of keeping a grasp of the space-time continuum is eliminated by the absence of clocks. Like Manhattan, this city never sleeps. But unlike the real thing, not a single villain is to be seen. You are more likely to be mugged in a nunnery than in New York New York. Out again, beneath the ever-beaming

sun, to investigate that vast green slab across the road. The MGM Grand is America's biggest hotel, but in case sheer size isn't enough to draw the crowds, it comes complete with theme park and monorail. Trains resembling silvery enaceships nose northwards, whispering past the shricking victims of the SkyScreamer - a monumental cross between a garden swing and a bungee jump.

The train crews collect tickets, because of course there are none, but they do wear badges announcing their name and home town. No one, it seems, actually comes from Las Vegas. What you're dying to ask of "Bob, Boston Mass" and "Sue, Sacramento Cal" is why they should choose to leave their roots for a bit part in the theatre of the absurd.

ality, you can imagine the frowning engineers watching the meters down the road at the Hoover Dam. This hydroclectric facility struggles to supply sufficient power for the millions of lightbulbs that keep the dark desert night eternally at bay.

A good few thousand of them swaddle Circus Circus. Unlike the average Big Top, this circus is in fact a collection of awkwardly angular hotel towers. The hub, though, is a genuine and gratuitous circus: an arena hemmed in by sideshows. Athletic acrobats perform miracles, accompanied by musicians whose jaded expressions reveal, as clear as a coda, the knowledge that there is no hope of professional progress after tinkling the fake ivories at Las Vegas.

As Elvis Presley demonstrated, this is the right place to see musicians at the wrong end of their careers. Thirty years ago. Steppenwolf were born to be wild; this week they were judged tame enough to play Las Vegas. Nobody makes mischief around here, but if they did they might headline next Saturday's gig at the Rio "The Sounds of Senility"; like a bridge over troubled decades, Art Garfunkel will be crooning to the converted.

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interview

SMOKING CAUSES CANCER

Chief Medical Officers' Warning 1 mg Tar 0.1 mg Nicotine



SILK CUT

ULTRA

TOBACCO SPRIOUSLY DAMAGES HEALTH

2/BRITAIN

SIMON **CALDER**

This week, the governor of California announced he had bought 600 army-surplus M16 automatic weapons for the Los Angeles police. The move will not necessarily make British travellers feel more secure about visiting the place. Yet more alarming, a story in the Los Angeles Times suggests that security at the city's international airport is less than perfect.

Earlier this month, a man wanted for making terrorist threats was apprehended by security staff at an airport checkpoint. He was trying to carry a small arsenal of weapons and ammunition on to a domestic flight. Yet instead of locking him up and throwing away the key, as you might have expected, the culprit simply handed over the deadly consignment to police and continued his journey.

It appears that attempting to take a gun on to an aircraft is a felony only if the weapon is loaded - carrying ammunition separately circumvents federal law. So no penalty applies for that. But what, you might ask, about the small matter of being wanted for making terrorist threats? Well, he was wanted by police in his home state of Minnesota. When their counterparts in Los Angeles phoned up to say they had got him, Minnesota's finest declined to come and fetch him because of the time and expense involved.

Travellers may be gratified to learn that he was finally apprehended last week, without the law having to do much detective work. He phoned LA police to give them his address for the return of the weapons. They called their chums in Minnesota, who picked him up.

The three-letter code for Los Angeles airport suddenly seems singularly appropriate:

It's changed - by which I mean the travel section's location and appearance - but what hasn't is our commitment to bring you the best possible travel coverage. Something else that stays firmly in place is our strict "no-freebies" policy - the insistence that writers pay full price for all travel facilities.

I welcome your comments on the new format and

Macaroni pies beneath Bertolucci skies



home to the inventor of the pneumatic tyre, and the **Portakabin**

he life Berlin

Scotland's east coast is climatically challenged, despite what some residents say. But in autumn it has other virtues. Wrap up well, says Fi Glover, and surrender to the magnificent pies and skies.

My mother used to warn people before they came to stay in Scotland that "the sands on Lunan Bay are sometimes so hot that you can burn the soles of your feet". Please don't use this advice to pack bikinis, high sun factors or great big inflatable Li-Los. The really important word here is "sometimes". Which you could, in fact, replace with rarely/occasionally/once, on 18 August 1996.

She has a point, though, about having to advertise her part of the east coast. The long stretch from Edinburgh up to Aberdeen doesn't have much of a tourist track gestion, you can once a beaten into it - most coaches turn left at gratulate Mr Pneumatic Tyre on his Edinburgh for Glasgow and the west, or put their cruise control on and drive straight up to the Highlands, which is a shame. Now is the best time of year to go east, when the leaves on the trees are turning and the air fares are falling and you're expecting it to be a bit chilly. Better advice than my mother's would be: "Fly to Aberdeen, hire a car, and take jumpers."

The coast itself is a gaunt and straggling version of what you may find on the west. As you drive out of Aberdeen on the coast road, the first thing you notice is a land/sky ratio that you get only in deserts, out at sea, or Bertolucci films: huge sky, tiny land. Stonehaven, the first town you get to, proudly boasts that it's home to the man who made the first pneumatic tyre, which is really rather a clever thing to have done.

Stonehaven is a pretty little harbour town with rather a grand central square and the kind of quayside that makes you want to take arty pictures of lobster nets. The Tolbooth

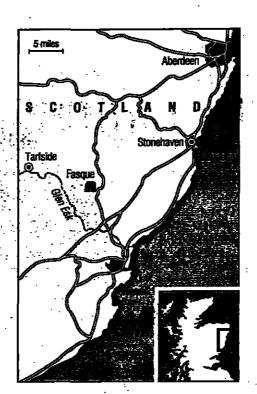
built as a store during the construction of the local castle, Dunnotar, which makes it the original Portakabin. It now houses a restaurant, and while the other pubs around the quay are showing an addiction to putting any kind of fish in a breadcrumb duffle-coat, the Tolbooth is letting it all hang out in a Seared Orkney King Scallops kind of way.

Alternatively, if you just want to sit on the quayside and scoff, then visit the butcher in the town square. Charles Machardy calls himself a high-class butcher, and has won awards for the last three years. I reckon he keeps winning because of his macaroni pies. This is a piecrust heaped with macaroni chesse it is a carbohydrate experience and is gooey, creamy and crinichy. Don't knock it till you've tried it.

Leaving Stonehaven with indiinvention as you climb into your vehicle and head off to Dunnotar Castle. There are signs for it as you leave Stonehaven but you can't see it anywhere. And what kind of a castle is that? Then suddenly, as you're hitting fourth gear on the coast road, there it is, rising out of a dip in the cliffs, a skeletal ruin of brooding, ninth-century menace. Its positioning is extraordinary; I hope whoever designed it got a goldrimmed certificate from the ninthcentury equivalent of the Architectural Journal.

Dunnotar has none of the twee, turretted prettiness of some of Scotland's other national treaentire English Plantagenet army alive in

Half-an-hour inland, the scenery changes dramatically. As you head towards the Auskies get calmer. If you want to "do" a country house while in Scotland then Fasque, This is no Chequers, though while Gladstone



sures. It's where William Wallace burnt the was in office Fasque was his get-away-fromit-all ancestral home. Its magnificent first-1297, and it's where film directors come floor drawing-room has a view past the in search of the kind of atmosphere that treetops of the park, where deer graze. If chipboard sets, blue make-up and big bud- you're lucky-and I was-you get a personal is the oldest building in the harbour and was gets could never give them. Stand and shiv- guided tour from Mrs Trainer, who's in memorial, the Queen's Well, which marks Travel Show'.

er for a while as you let that pie settle. charge of the house, and her son Robert. Robert knows more about Victorian jelly moulds than any boy I've ever met, and gus glens, the land gets smoother and the Fasque has more jelly moulds than any other stately home I've been to. It also has its fair share of Gladstone memorabilia, from home of the Gladstones, is a good choice. the original bag to a table full of Really Important Messages From Really Important

People in their original red leather rolls. And if you visit next weekend you're in for a bonus, as Bonham's will be taking over. The auctioneer will be hosting what is called a "stately attic sale", with treasures from the lofts of four stately homes. Fasque among them. Much of the furniture not on display in the house will be up for grabs, from huge chaises longues to entire sets of snooker cues.

But the east coast is really about air and beautiful views, both of which you can get in Glen Esk. My mother, when she wasn't nursing her burnt feet, used to dress my sister and me in matching cagoules and take us up Glen Esk every summer. We used to picnic up by Tarfside, the furthest point you can drive to, where we'd look for adders and try to spot salmon in the clear water in the stream. Doesn't it sound idyllic? I hat-

ed it, mainly because of the cagonle which, even at the age of glen, though: Queen Victoria has her own little memorial there. She

way to the local Invermark Castle, and stopped with Albert to drink from a

that thirst-quenching stop. I wonder whether people still do the same thing for

the royals; perhaps there's a Princess

Margaret vending machine in a sports hall

somewhere bearing the inscription:

"Madge stopped here and drank a No 2

If you'd rather have beach beauty,

then try my favourite place in the world ever, which is Lunan Bay (of the scorching sands). There's a castle set back from the beach and overlooking the dunes which is simply called the Red Castle because of its glorious stone. It's a ruin in the proper sense - parts of it are still dropping off on a monthly basis - and there, stretched out before it, is Lunan Bay. There are only so many ways you can de-

scribe a beach and most of them have been done before and involve saying sibilant things such as "sweeping stretches of sand". Lunan is more than that - it's comfy jumpers and holding hands and dribbling noses, and it's gorgeous. You can spend an afternoon hunting for fossils on the beach, or walk up to the Red Castle and place your bets on which bit will fall off next, or just lie on the sand looking up at the big, big sky and wondering why you didn't buy more macaroni pies.

Fi Glover paid £77 for a return flight on British Airways (0345 222111); Air UK (0345 666777) currently sells flights from London Stansted to Aberdeen for £54 return, including tax. Avis (0990 900500), Hertz (0990 nine, I knew was a fashion faux 996699) and Budget (0541 565656) rent cars pas. I wouldn't be the first lady to from Aberdeen airport. Fasque is open 1 Maywant to travel in style through the 30 September, 11am-5.30 pm. Dunnotar Castle is open all year round. Contact Bonham's (0131-226 3204) for details of the atcame over the hills from Balmoral on her tic sale, to be held on 27 September. Tolbooth restaurant, Stonehaven: 01569 762287. On Monday at 8.30pm on BBC2, Fi Glover can spring. The local laird heard about it, and be seen cooking even more exotic fare as the to commemorate the event he built a stone culmination of a Thai Cookery course for 'The



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The British Isles General Summary and Outlook:

Today will be a dry, settled day over most of the UK, with variable amounts of cloud and sunshine at times after the clearance of earlymorning fog patches. However, Northern Ireland, south-west Scotland, Cumbria and north Wales will stay overcast with occasional splashes of rain and some mist over coasts and hills. During the afternoon and evening this grey damp weather should spread across

other parts of western Scotland. Tomorrow, most of the UK will be dry with a mix of clouds and sunshine and mostly light winds, although early-morning fog patches may be slow to clear. However, west and north-west Scotland will stay overcast with drizzly rain at times. Monday will be dry, bright and a little warmer, although western Britain and Northern Ireland will have some showers later. On Tuesday and Wednesday most western and northern areas will be windy and unsettled, but the fine weather will probably linger in the south-east.

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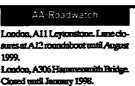
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Belfast	C	14	57	Dublin	F	14	57	Jersey	S	23	73	Southampton	S	20	6
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Surrey, M25 J8-10. Lane closures both ways until further notice. Bustol, M5 J18-19. Contration on Ascomouth Bridge until Angust 1998. Staffordshire, A50 Stoke On Treat. Major works at Meir until March 1998. Leicestershire, A6 Lockington. Contraflow near M1.124. Berkshire. A34 between M4 J13 Chieveley Services and Newbury (A4).

Roadworks, contradiow and nanow kines with a 40 mph speed limit for the Newbory bypass world. Greater Manchester, A627 Bardsley. Temporary Fights on Ashton Rd Merseyside, A567 Bootle, Stanley Rd dosed northbound until further notice. Tyne & Wear, A19 Newcastle area. Roadworks at Killingworth.

West Yorks, M1.147. Major long-term roadworks outil Sept 15, Bucks, M40 Jia-3. Roadworks with contrallow I is (M25) and I3.

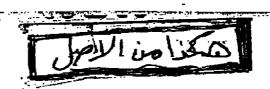
Out and about with AA Road-watch cal 0336 401 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association, Calls



Tomorrow morning (21 September) at 5.15 am -half an hour before sumise - the planet Mercury appears about 10 degrees above the eastern horizon in the constellation Leo.

Sharp-eyed early risers may already have spotted Mercury low on the eastern horizon just before sunrise. This most clusive of planets is currently giving us the benefit one of its flitting apparitions. For just a few days, it rises sufficiently ahead of the Sun that we have a chance of spotting it before it becomes lost in the brightening dawn. The best time to look is about 5.15am (BST) in the next couple of mornings. Mercury is in Leo, and its bright star Regulus should be a useful marker. After that, the next opportunity to see Mercury will be in six months' time. Whether you spot Mercury or not, pre-dawn sky watchers can currently enjoy a preview of Orion and the other magnificent constellations which do not adorn the evening sky until the middle of winter.

Jacqueline Mitton





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48 hours in the life of Berlin

You need a break - and a short cut to the soul of a city. Starting today, The Independent will provide a prescription for the perfect weekend break. The first target is Berlin, where Simon Calder spends 48 hours.

Why go now?

Because middle Europe's greatest city is on the cusp between the extraordinary and the merely mighty. Get there before all the bureaucrats arrive from Bonn; while it remains tantalisingly schizoid; when the first mists of autumn send chills whispering through handsome streets, and while you still get close on DM3 to £1.

home to the

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tyre, and the

Purtakabin

British Airways and its affiliates fly from Birmingham, Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester, call 0345 222111 for timings and fares - a minimum of £151 return (including tax) for travel next weekend from Heathrow. Lufthansa (0345 737747) flies direct only from Heathrow, £151.

Tegel airport is about the only location in Berlin that isn't handy for the city's superb rail network - it's tucked away in the north-west of the city, inconveniently disconnected from the U-Bahn and S-Bahn railways. At the airport Info-Point (located opposite gate 0, open 5am-10.30pm), buy a Welcome Card for £10; this gives you 72 hours of unlimited travel throughout the city. Climb aboard the bus to Kurt Schumacher-Platz and connect with U-Bahn line 6.

Get your bearings

The heart of the city is a building site. Potsdamer Platz will, in a couple of years, boast a fine array of new buildings. Until then you have a choice of centres: in the west, the area around Zoo station and Kaiser-Wilhelm church; in the east, around the Deutsche Dom (literally "German Cathedral"). For fun, though, make for Prenziauer Berg in the east.

Checking in

The brand-new Adlon (Unter den Linden 77, 00 49 30 22610). It opened last month and has proved wildly popular despite high prices. A room, if you can get one - you'll pay £200 for a double with breakfast. The agreeably flash Inter-Continental (next to the zoo at Budapester Strasse 2, 00 49 30 26020) costs half as much, which includes a Prussian-sized breakfast. At the other end of the scale, the central, cheap 54, 00 49 30 785 5051) costs only £12 for a bed in a dorm, sharing with a sunny (but possibly snore-prone) mix of international travellers.

Take a ride

Easily the best overview of the city is on the S-Bahn from Zoo station to Hauptbahnhof. The line threads itself sinuously from the brash west to the jolly muddle of the east. As it slides through Friedrichstrasse station, you may feel a faint shiver to think that this used to be the main conduit between East and West.

Take a hike

That street again. Priedrichstrasse was never the "bustling centre of municipal life" that the East German publicity once claimed, but it traces an articulate course through the core of a once-shattered city, brushing past architecture at turns palatial and brutal on the journey south to the site of Checkpoint Charlie.

Lunch on the run Currywurst - a street-corner, spicy saveloy.

· Regulary

Cultural afternoon Forget South Kensington; Europe's finest agglomeration of art is to be found on Museum Island, where four collections jostle for attention. You really need a fortnight rather than a few hours to do them justice, so concentrate on the Pergamon Museum and the breathtaking 2,000-year-old altar that gave it the name.

Window shopping The Pergamon closes at 5pm; German law capital of the GDR. Eat well, and sleep well. makes shops shut at 4pm each Saturday. Go

Kaiser Withelm church: the ancient and modern hub of West Berlin

Trendy things from East and West meet at Volksbuhne, a triumphant emporium on Rosa-Lux-

peer in on the retailers of the Kurfurstendamm.

emburg Platz. Wash down an Apfelkorn (sweet liqueur) with weisse beer, and look like a tourist.

Demure dinner A stroll along Sredzkistrasse or Knaackstrasse

will reveal more romantically rustic restaurants than you ever thought possible in the former

Sunday morning: go to church Like much in Berlin, the Deutsche Dom was devastated by Allied bombs. It has just reopened

Bracing brunch To continue last night's meat'n'alcohol frenzy, call in at Zum Padderwirt, Nikolaikirchplatz 6, any time from 11am. Or try ...

A walk in the park Mauerpark, north of the centre, is a gentle swathe of green that nuzzles against a still-graffiti-strewn section of the Berlin Wall. No-man's-

land has become everyone's playground.

Photograph: Peter Scholey/Robert Harding Picture Agency

The icing on the cake

as a civic museum, tracing 150 years of Berlin. The Café Einstein at Kurfürstenstrasse 58 will confirm all your suspicions about bourgeois life in Berlin, helping to reduce the EU's cream surplus at the same rate as it increases your waistline. Ten DM (£3.50) buys a Kaffee und Kuchen any time until 2am. When was that flight home?

THIS IS LAS VEGAS

A ticket for Art will set you back £12, a wiser buy than spending cash on a timeshare in a Deja Vu Show Girl whose company boasts of "Hundreds of beautiful girls and three ugly ones". The prosaic address, 3247 Industrial Boulevard, emphasises that the dollar is the lowest common denominator for every transaction in Las Vegas,

Budget travellers have no need to splash out on ugly girls or ageing singers for en-tertainment. Defying the civic disdain for clocks, a precise timetable of performances is scheduled along the Strip. Five times a day, Russian gymnasts troupe out a jawdropping routine in which a performer perched on a single stilt is catapulted high into the clear desert sky to something approaching near-earth orbit. No safety net - Las Vegas is all about risk.

Every 90 minutes, Treasure Island stakes its reputation on the live "Buccancer Bay Show", in which passersby are invited to watch a platoon of English pirates (complete with cod-Oxford accents) do battle with a Spanish treasure ship.

If, by the time the British boat sinks and is miraculously resurrected, your mind is still battling to keep in touch with reality, the volcano that crupts along the street every 15 minutes will see off the last shred of sense.

Hallucinogenic drugs are expensive, illegal and dangerous. Las Vegas is none of the above, but has roughly the same effect. Oh - and if you wish, you can also gamble.

Simon Calder paid £432 return on United Airlines to Las Vegas via Washington, booked through Quest Worldwide

WEDDINGS IN PARADISE?



If you are not married when When I shop I like to know you arrive in Las Vegas, you the total charges. So, I'd like could well be by the time you to let you know up front expage on the Internet lists 47 wedding chapels, from A married in Las Vegas. Precious Moment to the Wee Kirk o' the Heather.

The Commissioner of Civil Marriages offers instant nuptials for \$70 (including the licence), but for something more sophisticated you will need to shop around - and must expect to pay for romantic touches such as being married by an Elvis impersonator or aboard a hot-air balloon.

Ken Burleson, manager of the Chapel of Love, issues the following advice to prospective partners:

Dear Bride and Groom.

there will be when you get

"Licence fee \$35 - the only place you can get a marriage licence is at the Clark County Courthouse. Cash payment is remired.

"Minister's gratuity - the ministers in Las Vegas are not employees of the chapel. He will give you an envelope at the end of the ceremony. Suggested gratuity \$25 and up.

'Limousine driver's tip it is customary to tip the limo driver in Las Vegas, around \$20 if the service is good.

"Sales tax - package prices do not include Nevada Sales Tax."

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4/SKIING

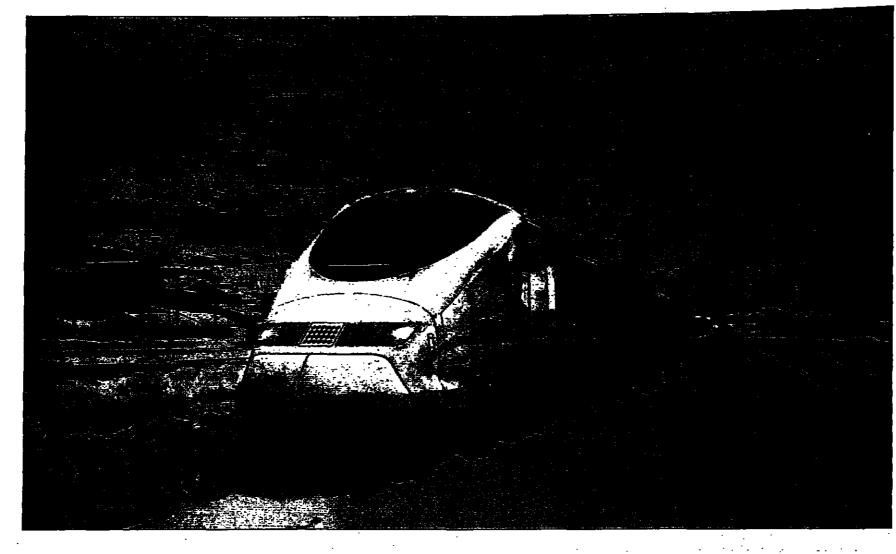
Eurostar's piste de résistance

A big grey train ride, the longest you can take from Britain, begins this winter. Eurostar's link to the Alps aims to tempt skiers from the skies. Stephen Wood reports on the route of the future.

Régine Tête will be busy on 13 December. Apart from all the usual Saturday transfers that her company. Autocars Martin, runs to more than a dozen ski resorts, it will also send a fleet of coaches to Moutiers and Bourg St Maurice railway stations in the late afternoon: the first direct Eurostar service from London to the French Alps begins that day. Leaving Waterloo at 8.57am, the train arrives at Moutiers at 5.41pm and Bourg St Maurice at 6.27pm. The coaches will offer the Eurostar passengers (678 of them, if the train is full) transport to resorts such as Val d'Isère and Val Thorens.

At Autocars Martin, they are keeping calm about how full their coaches could be. Tour operators will probably organise transfers to the major destinations, leaving Régine Tête's company to pick up the bits and pieces - independent travellers and skiers heading for smaller resorts such as Pralognan-la-Vanoise and La Rosière. But at those resorts they are far from calm. Hit by the decline in the local skiing market, many small French resorts have formed a marketing organisation, Club Montagne, and the members in the Rhône-Alpes region are excited about the custom that

Eurostar will deliver to their doorstep. Just listen to Jean-Pierre Jouneau in La Rosière's marketing department. "The Eurostar will radically change the skiing business in this area," he says. "Because they have to organise long transfers from the airports, British tour operators have always concentrated on taking their clients to just which arrives in Bourg St Maurice then has until this month is a mystery, although Eu-misleading-half-empty carriages and ex-see them again until you are in the Alps - years, 50 per cent of skiers travelling to the a few, big resorts - it's simpler for them. to go back without passengers to Paris, to rostar says that arrangements with its rail- ceptional hospitality did induce a eupho- without, as Eurostar points out, baying to area will go by train.



Eurostar as you've never seen it before - take the Tunnel to the Alps

dom to go wherever they want. And of running more trains, but not this season. course they would rather go to small skiing villages than to huge, industrial resorts." Jouneau is optimistic enough to expect busithanks partly to the two independent operators, Hannibals and Ski Esprit, who are ioining Erna Low and Ski Olympic in offering trips to La Rosière this season.

But at this end of the railway line, the new service seems to be causing less excitement. Eurostar's schedule is a toe-inin each direction. Since both run on Sattwo different trains have to be used -with for a fully flexible ticket, it will do so. the absurd consequence that the one

pendently on the train, and have the free-service. Eurostar says it is contemplating

The company's pricing has been tentative, too. When the service was announced in the spring, the "standard class" fare was erised booking system - seems rather ness with British skiers to double this year, to be £199 return; when Eurostar finally set its prices at the beginning of this month, two lower, "promotional" fares had been added. From 3 to 24 January, £199 will buy a first-class return: in standard class, the fare is £129. During the rest of the season (which ends with the inbound train on 25 April), the standard-class fare will be the-water job, with just one service a week £149. The promotional fares are, however, "subject to availability and conditions": urday, and the journey takes eight hours, if Eurostar can sell seats at the £199 price,

Quite why the fares were not finalised

longer than expected. How well the tickets are selling remains a mystery, too: Eurostar said last week that it did not yet have SUPPRISING.

But the big tour operators are clearly treating the train as a niche product - because for them, it is. Figures from Inghams per cent of its bookings are on Eurostar; a spokesman for another of the "big six" operators admitted that the service was "notselling as well as we had hoped". The danger is that, for them, the Eurostar may be more trouble than it is worth. True, the preview trip to Bourg St Maurice last March

travel to a ski resort. And yes, eight hours is a long time to spend on a train, although with a book, a Walkman and a window seat. any sales figures, which - with a comput- it is infinitely preferable to queuing, hauling skis and polluting the upper atmosphere with aviation fuel.

Certainly, it would be better if the trains ran at night, but with the cancellation of the "Euro-sleeper" contract in July, there earlier this week showed that a mere 0.2 are no sleeping cars which comply with Channel Timnel fire regulations - and, anyway, high-speed tracks in France take such a pounding that they are closed at night for maintenance.

Nevertheless, the convenience and simplicity of the Eurostar service are seductive. You dump your skis in the train's

THE CAPE TRAVEL CO. LTD 0181 943 4067 (FAX: 943 4086)

But now British skiers can travel inderessume its weekday job on the London-Paris way partners and government agencies took ria one does not normally associate with pay the fee of at least £12 that tour operators demand to guarantee your skis' transit by plane. Resort reps will travel on the train to offer advice, hand out piste maps and issue lift passes. And with the Eurostar's new fares, the train can compete on price with charter flights.

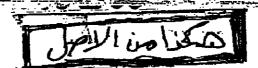
And at the other end, you can forget those long airport transfers. At Bourg St Maurice station you have only to change platforms to catch the funicular railway up to Les Arcs 1600, and Autocars Martin will run you up the dozen kilometres to La Rosière. Or, better still, you could take a taxi to explore the small village resorts such as Peisey, Pralognan and St François - they will be hoping that, despite the Eurostar's tentative start, the Good Skiing Guide is for tour operators and journalists was luggage compartment at Waterloo and don't right in its prediction that within five

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5/SKIING

French without tears

In response to competition from the US, French ski resorts are concentrating on flexibility and childfriendliness. Cathy Packe checks out the new developments.

Whereas the British head in their millions to France for summer holidays, there has La Plagne last year, and is exbeen far less enthusiasm in recent years for skiers to choose d'Isère. Children aged three to the resorts of the French Alps. 12 can have full- or half-day in-Odd, this, when you consider that France offers arguably ing instructors. Ski Esprit, the best skiing in Europe.

Most complaints about France seem to revolve around the lack of charm in many of ified childminders who pick the resorts. Many offer rooms children up from ski school and which the modern tourist re- supervise their lunch and afgards as too small; most botels ternoon activities, until parents and apartment buildings were collect them at 5pm. Eight-topurpose-built, with often ghast- 13-year-olds can go to the Coly architecture out of keeping coa Club, giving adults a chance with the mountain terrain; and to have dinner on their own. But there is a lack of ambience in none of these facilities is free; comparison with resorts in a cheaper option might be to Switzerland and Austria. The leave the children at home. après-ski has also been seen as poor, and often overpriced.

rostar train from Waterloo straight into the resorts (see opposite), the fact that the pound able throughout your trip. is still worth close to 10 francs, and upgraded accommodation, tense, so resorts cannot afford have made this the year to think to stand still. Many French reabout returning to France - sorts have upgraded their lifts particularly since skiing ap- to reduce queues. Courchevel, pears to be less popular among though, is concentrating on the French themselves. The promoting its overnight pistegreat variety of terrain means grooming and giving skiers a choice of resorts at all prices, better daily information about and many UK tour operators weather conditions and the are starting to offer trips to the state of the pistes; this service smaller resorts as well as to the has been on offer for some time

FAR 3071 191 253

rans indi

Each ski area in France covers a different mountain range: the Alps, which divide into the Rhone Aips and the southern Alps; the Pyrenees; the Massif Central; the Jura; and the Vosges. There are claimed to be 400 resorts grouped together in 25 interlinked ski areas, which have 4,000 lifts serving 6,000 pistes.

It is now easy to put together an independent skiing trip, but mosphere, the extra sophistia browse through the brochures gives an idea of market trends. The emphasis is on flexibility, better accommodation and new resorts, with increased attention to the needs of children.

While most operators continue to use weekend charter flights, Powder Byrne's clients can use scheduled flights on any vantage of local produce, or to day of the week to the airports try out resort restaurants. of Lyon and Geneva. Alternatively, the company will supply ferry tickets for those wanting to drive to the mountains, and book château hotels for overnight stops along the way.

The theme of flexibility is taken up by White Roc, which uses the link between Swissair and the Belgian airline Sabena to route regional flights from Glasgow, Edinburgh and Newcastle via Brussels into Geneva.

One of the best offers for families with small children Tourism and the Maison de la France. Twenty-seven French resorts are offering free accommodation for a week to children under 10 accompanied by two paying adults, for the week over Christmas and for three weeks immediately after New Year. Destinations include chic Megève, and the modern resort of Les Arcs.

Most operators have special rogrammes for children. Mark Warner is continuing the childreu's ski school established in tending it next season to Val struction from English-speakwhich operates in some of the bigger resorts, is this year introducing snow rangers - qual-

But should you choose to leave the nanny at home, you However, the weekly Eu- can hire one through Powder Byrne, to meet you in the UK before departure and be avail-

> Foreign competition is inflects concern among French resorts about the number of skiers who are finding the Rockies as accessible and affordable as the Alps.

> Accommodation in France has also been found wanting by skiers who have been to the US. This year Mark Warner is putting an emphasis on "Chalethotels", with a chalet atcation of an à la carte restaurant, and a bar - so holiday-makers can escape standard fare from chalet girls who turn out not to be cordon bleu cooks. And Erna Low has taken over the apartment agency Pierre & Vacances, which means a chance to take ad-

The variety of resorts in France is one of the main selling-points for skiers, and this is particularly relevant for people skiing in groups of mixed ability. Most big resorts have so many different slopes that begimers will find something they can cope with, and those looking for advanced mogul

fields will never get bored. The Trois Vallées - which in fact consists of four valleys - is the most popular area in France, and takes in the resorts comes through Rhone-Alpes of Méribel, Courchevel, Val Thorens and Les Menuires. charm and authenticity.



Courchevel itself is really four resorts, ranging between the chic and expensive Courchevel 1850 to the downmarket Le Praz. The whole thing is linked by a system of 200 lifts, which spill out skiers on to 600km of

Most of the big operators offer holidays in the Trois Vallées, and Meriski is one of the specialists. Its newest acquisition. the Lodge at Burgin, is advertised as a combination of small hotel and chalet. This year, for the first time, Meriski is venturing away from Méribel. The company has expanded into Courchevel and Val d'Isère, offering a collection of alpine ho-

glomeration of 13 resorts, of which the best known and most popular is Avoriaz. The drawback to this whole area is others, so the snow conditions are less reliable. Morzine, which is part of the complex, is offering floodlit night-skiing next season, which, if weather conditions permit, is a good way of prolonging the amount of skiing time in a short holiday, assuming you have the

The biggest trend of the winter, though, abetted by Eurostar, is an expansion of the repertoire of resorts. Thomson, tels. The emphasis here is on for example, is going to Pra Loup for the first time, while

ing on the smaller resorts. La Rosière, with its gentle slopes, most of which are above the tree line, is served by Erna Low, that it is not as high as many and this year for the first time by Ski Esprit. As Stephen Wood suggests opposite, the new Eurostar service could change the focus of skiing away from the larger resorts and towards the villagey France that most of us want to visit. Snowfile

Erna Low: 0171-584 2841 Maison de la France/Rhône Alpes Tourisme: 0891 244123 Mark Warner: 0171-393 3168 Powder Byrne: 0181-871 3300 Ski Esprit: 01252 616789 Thomson: 0990 329 329 White Roc: 0171-792 1188

Two on a slippery slope

Learning to ski in a week may sound impossible, but Helen and Peter Rodriguez tried it - and lived to tell the tale.

They seemed a nice enough couple. Then the verbal avalanche began. Before I could slalom away I was deluged with the joys of powder snow - "better than sex" - and the beauty of the Val d'Isère: "I can't believe you've never been". Yawn. Two weeks later, against our better judgement, my husband and I were booked on to a learn-to-ski week at La Plagne in France. Decked out head to toe in C&A, we laid bets on who'd break a leg first.

After picking up our hired skis and boots, we trudged off for our first lesson with the ski school Oxygène, run by brothers Bertrand and Pierre de Monvallier. Their aim is to impart a love of the sport. Did they succeed?

Helen's diary

Day one, and Peter was already looking grim. It wasn't the prospect of skiing; it was the sight of the male ski instructors, clearly hand-picked for their looks as well as their skills. I, on the other hand, had no complaints.

Stereotypes were shattered when the most handsome and French looking of the bunch opened his mouth: "All right mate?" He was a Brit, from Norfolk. Quel dommage.

Six of us were taken to the nursery slopes by Olivier, whose first task was to teach us the most important lesson of all: how to stop.

"Crazy," the rest of us muttered jealously as two-year-olds overtook us on the nursery slopes. Then we learned the difficult business

SKI TIPS

Every week a simple

tip to improve your

instructor/winter

sport consultant.

skiing, from Chris Exall,

It's better to spend more

time skiing well on casier

techniques on runs which

are within your ability

before you try them on

more challenging runs.

slopes than badly on

more difficult ones.

Practice a range of

of turning. Stick a hip out, put the weight on one leg, then the other. It could have been the hokey cokey. Olivier was not impressed. "No. no. no. you save that for ze deesco."

Day two, and having mastered turns and stops Peter and I were promoted to Patrick Gostoli's class. Patrick used to be in the French national slalom team and he had high hopes for us. Suddenly we found ourselves on green and blue runs with real skiers. Just as suddenly I forgot how to turn and stop, and had a crisis of confidence as snowboarders whizzed past me. Now I know why instructors call beginners jambon. My legs were soon so bruised, they looked like hams.

Day three, and every-

thing was starting to click. As our group of six whooshed along Patrick kept some sort of bond (probably because as we fell ing competently behind him. Never before had I felt so elated; I never dreamed I would be able to ski after just three days. I could just see myself on Ski Sunday. Just before lunch Patrick rewarded us by taking us to a mountain café for wine and panoramic views. It was only as we left that we realised why. A borribly steep red run awaited us - sheer ice, and no way to get down apart from Dutch courage. Another crisis of confidence struck as fear reduced my legs to jelly. "Turn, Hélène, turn, turn, turn," he repeated, as I stood rooted to the spot before falling all the way down. Whose idea was this holiday?

But my most spectacular fall was that night, en route to a restaurant. Without skis I performed a surprise triple salko followed by a double toe loop before landing on my nose. My companions awarded me a Torvill and Dean six out of six.

Day four saw me back on the green slopes before class trying to recover confidence and practise technique. For the first time we were going to ski with poles.

By the afternoon, fatigue had left me lagging behind the rest of the group. I kept falling over, and Patrick took pity on me. For the final haif hour I grabbed on to his waist for dear life - at least, that's what I told my husband - as he guided me down the mountain.

Day five, the best day yet. I sped ahead, perfeeting my now parallel turns, and even attempted the "Hollywood" slalom - an icy, steep racetrack with poles you are meant to whip around but more often than not demolish.

Thin mountain tracks no longer filled me with dread, as I kept my eyes ahead and not on my skis. After one impressive manoeuvre (ie, I didn't fall over) Patrick awarded me his ski instructor's medal and insisted I lead the group. I promptly fell over again.

Day six - the last day, and the whole group was already planning their next trip. Tired but elated, we all hugged Patrick like an old, dear friend, embarrassing him with our heartfelt thanks. Now, can I bore you with the joys of powder snow? Or what about that time I ...

Peter's diary

How could I have ever agreed to this? Hurtling down a mountain on two planks of wood, for fun, I must be mad.

The massive queue at the check-in at Gatwick didn't do much for my morale, either, but there was certainly a buzz amongst the group of travellers dressed in what looked like outrageously bright shell suits.

The hotel, when we finally arrived, was not at all as pretentious as I had feared. I was soon swept into conversation, and had a drink in my hand before you could say "bottoms up".

On the first day of lessons most of us men huddled together - huddling in fear of our new instructors, who we thought

would have us in agony, crashing down the slopes of the Kinder run at breakneck speed. But the first day was relaxed and remarkably easy. as we rolled about in the snow. They soon had me branded as a nutter; no sooner had I put on skis than I took out one of the instructors: we both crashed to the ground in a flurry of scything skis and loud grunts.

The next couple of days went by in a white flurry as we exhausted every ounce of strength. The instructors carefully helped us through our morning warm-ups, ensuring that the lessons of the previous day were reinforced before inflicting upon us a new day's rituals. At lunch. our group, which had formed

am so hannee" at the sight of us trail. Our respective Veloto strans stuck together) would limp to a café for lunch - more often than not an orgy of cheese, elbows and beer.

Then back on to the drag lift (a pole with a button on the end, on which to rest your bottom as you are dragged up the mountain). This, for an ungainly male like myself, can test a man's masculinity to the max. By the fourth day our instructor had dubbed us "the helicopters" owing to the way we held our ski poles and thrashed the air. Somehow, though, Patrick, our ever-vigilant instructor, retained his faith in our ability to learn. And after three days of falling over we were suddenly liberated, sailing downhill on wings of carbon-reinforced plastic. Our hearts pounded as we sped down in a rush of adrenaline and laughter.

One week at the Hotel Christina at La Plagne centre costs £504, inclusive of breakfast, high tea and dinner with wine. The "learn to ski" week operates throughout the season in La Plagne. Included are six full days of lessons, ski and boot hire, and one-week lift pass. Total: £250 (for details, call Mark Warner on 0171-393 3168).

PLAN YOUR GARDEN



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LOW ROAD

Fly with Easylet from Luton to Nice (£98 return) then take the train via Marseilles to Briancon. Stock up there on local produce, which you can turn into a meal at your destination. You reach the resort of Serre-Chevalier by gondola (the skilift variety, not the Venetian type). Make your way to the youth hostal

(bookable by the week, 00 33 4 92 24 74 54). It's basic but cosy, and has cooking facilities. The choice of cafés and bars is small, so you may wish you had picked up a couple of bottles of vin de pays. Otherwise, after a day on the piste, treat yourself to a vin choud at Jacques A. or a few brandles at le Grand Alpe.

HIGH ROAD

Take a business class flight to Geneva on Swissair (0771-434 7300) for £437 return, and hall a limousine to take you the 80km to Megève. The loth-century cow shed known as Les Fermes de Marie (00 33 4 50 93 03 10) may not seem like the most enticing of accommodation, but has been so lucuriously

converted that you will find it hard to drag yourself out into the snow. A superior room costs around £250 per night. Take cocktails at the Alpette, reached by a sled from the top of the cable car, and then have dinner at the former Rothschild home, the Chalet du Mont d'Arbois (00 33 4 50 21 25 03)



6/BRITAIN

Costumed interpreters are bringing the past alive in museums all over the country. Helen Chappell reports on history's fresh plan of attack.

We live in interesting times. This summer, terrifying violence has broken out in the streets of Stirling in Scotland, where militant nationalists in leather and plaid have been clashing with British soldiers. Explosions and gunfire have stunned innocent onlookers at Bath, Bolsover and Battle Abbey. These are high old times, in fact, for costumed re-enactors - that strange new breed of weekend hobbyists and Equity card performers with a missionary zeal to "bring history alive" at castles, museums and heritage sites across the country. Their armies have been slugging it out in Scotland to mark the 700th anniversary of Wallace's victory at Stirling Bridge, and defending Fishguard against Napoleonic soldiers invading Wales for the first time since 1797.

But any weekend of the year you will find them at it somewhere off the motorway: Norman weddings, Jacobean standup comics. Regency duellists, and Viking encampments with authentic displays of bottom-scratching. Museums and historic houses, too, teem with the living dead. Dryas-dust guidebooks and tour guides reeling off dates are no longer enough for us, it seems. We want to shake hands with our ancestors, and experience for ourselves the look, the sounds and the smells.

Now the make-believe battles of the tellectual feud. Bad-tempered articles in museum journals question the historical accuracy and educational value of costumed events. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Art Collections Fund, has launched an attack on curators who "obscure the importance" of the objects in their care "with interpretative, theme park ... displays". It is not the job of heritage sites and museums, he fumes, to "ape Madame Tussands or Disneyland". Are costumed interpreters sweating it out in their replica corsets doing more harm than good?

Not according to Justin Hall, alias Sir Justin de Frais of Lion Rampant, a medieval re-enactment society.

"Our weapons, costumes, music and dances are as accurate as possible," he says. ments and combats - we get gasps from the crowd." Mr Hall, an ex-soldier, now a cus-



Cavaliers, cads and codpieces

toms officer, admits to a strong romantic streak, however. "I believe we all do it because we're reincarnated medieval knights. I have a burning passion for the era. I love weekend warriors have sparked off an in- all the dressing up and living in a time warp." A fellow medieval, Suzy Ashby, insists that the audience loves it too. "People ask us all sorts of questions: Is it hot in that armour? How do you go to the loo? They get completely carried away by the fighting, screaming and cheering us on."

It may be fun, but is it educational? Howard Giles, head of special events at English Heritage, which puts on most of the big UK re-enactments, thinks so. "Some critics will always cry pastiche and call it plastic history," he says. "But we won't tolerate cavaliers smoking cigarettes, or Viking chieftains with cans of Coke."

The huge surge in popularity of these alfresco costumed events surprises even their organisers. "It's quite amazing," says Howard Giles. "There are more than 400 "We learn to fight properly in our tourna- groups out there reviving every era, from Romans to the Second World War." When English Heritage tried out such events in A FUTURE DIARY FOR PAST EVENTS

Sundays, 12 October and 2, 9, 16, 23, soothed by music of the time. From 30 November, Edinburgh Castle: An afternoon of living history and drama. Meet Sir Walter Scott, Deacon Brodie, and body-snatchers Burke and Hare, who re-create events of the past. Starts 1pm (details, 0131-668 8830/8686).

Saturday-Sunday, 20-21 September, Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire: Redcoat festival celebrates the soldiers' history, including re-enacted battles of Naseby, 1645; Culloden, 1746; and Waterloo, 1815. Plus living history encampments. From noon (01246 823349).

Saturday-Sunday, II-I2 October, Framlingham, Suffolk: Songs and Surgery - 17th-century doctors demonstrate gory cures for Civil War wounds NB Most outdoor re-enactments finish and illnesses, while their patients are in early October.

noon (01728 724189).

Friday 4 to Monday 7 December, Bishop's Old Palace, Lincoln: A medieval Christmas with costumed carols, games, song and dance. Yuletide pagan rituals investigated. 10-4pm (01522 527468).

Saturday-Sunday, 6-7 December, Queen's House, Greenwich, London SEIO: A Stuart-era frost fair re-created - come and see King Charles II and take part in his revels, including a court masque, dances, carols and the making of festive treats and decorations (0181-858 4422).

such as Sealed Knott bring the past alive in realistic battle re-enactments Photograph: Peter MacDiarmid

Weekend warriors: groups

demics; some are resting actors; many have attended a "heritage interpretation" course. Most weekends, James Arnott can be spotted dressed as a Georgian courtier, strolling languidly in the garden or great hall of a stately home. He has a postgraduate diploma in beritage interpretation and a lofty disdain for some of the amateur element in his line of work. "We've had computer programmers in historic uniform bashing each other over the head for some time," he says, "but I'm trying to give the public a more close-up, hands-on experience." Inside Marble Hill House in west London, for example, Mr Arnott and his company Beaux Stratagems hold a lady's levée (with corset-lacing demonstration), sing baroque songs, and take tea with exquisite gentility. James has worked at Disneyland in Florida, and has no time for such a "Mary Poppins meets My Fair Lady" approach to history. "I'm pernickety about details; all our costumes are copied from paintings of the day ... There's really no excuse for getting it wrong. All the evidence is there in the diaries, prints and plays of the time." His greatest frustration is the élitist attitude of heritage curators in the Sir Nicholas Goodison mould. "Some of them think you'll take the place over, cause a visitor blockage ... We try to get them on our side - ask for their help and ideas, and use their expert knowledge in our presentation. Often their remit is to preserve a house in aspic. Our audiences say we bring it alive."

Academics and puritans may sneer, but the time-warp bandwagon rolls on regardless. Even the conservative National Trust has now begun to stage costumed events, such as the 18th-century pleasure garden "revels" this August at Studley Royal water gardens, in Yorkshire. Of the major London museums, only the British Muscum and V&A are still holding out against Roman soldiers or Victorian flower-sellers popping up in their galleries. "The public doesn't give a toss whether we put professional actors, amateurs or academics inside the costumes," says Liz Denton, of the Interpretation Unit at the Museum of London, "as long as they have done their homework. There's still a lot of snobbery which says that museums are only there for scholarly research. We're not trying to turn try to fight a friendly battle or two. English the place into a theme park. We believe our costumed actors help to demystify history for families and school parties - giving them the past. A bizarre new occupation - the solid information in a positive, fun way."

Like it or not, the costumed ghost from rived. Some are ex-schoolteachers and aca- the past has a bright future.

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1985 (with just three venues) there was an

instant rise in visitors and membership. To-

day it holds 600 costumed events a year all

over England (Scotland does its own), rang-

ing from a couple of minstrels strumming

lutes, to this summer's staging of 2,000 years

of military history at Kirby Hall in North-

amptonshire, with a cast of thousands and

a budget of £30,000 plus. Though it pays

only expenses to its amateur groups, the an-

nual events budget has risen to £750,000.

in the early Sixties with a handful of 18th-

century redcoat soldiers at Williamsburg

and the Plymouth Plantation in Virginia.

They first took hold in Britain with the

founding of the Sealed Knot civil war so-

ciety in 1968. Now almost every nation in

Europe has got the dressing-up bug and cos-

turned armies travel to each other's coun-

Heritage has not been alone in seeing the

money-spinning potential of this passion for

paid, costumed interpreter - has also ar-

Costume re-enactors started in the US

Not everyone wants to go on a whistle-stop tour around India, getting up at dawn, pack-ing and unpacking every day. Nor are some of those people consoled by the beauty of the place when balanced with the discomforts and the lack of facilities in the remoter areas. This tour therefore is designed to be leisurely and com-fortable within the context of India and aims to explore three major areas in depth, allowing suf-ficient time for independent sightseeing or sim-ply to relax in the shade of a banyan tree, per-haps in a beautiful garden or watching the inim-itable sunset.

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of the Indian countryside, for a two-night stay at the Siddarth Hotel. During the stay optional visits will be made to both Old and New Delhi and in particular the Red Fort and the Lutyens-designed centre of the city. Finally return to Agra for the Monarch Airlines flight to London Gatwick airport.

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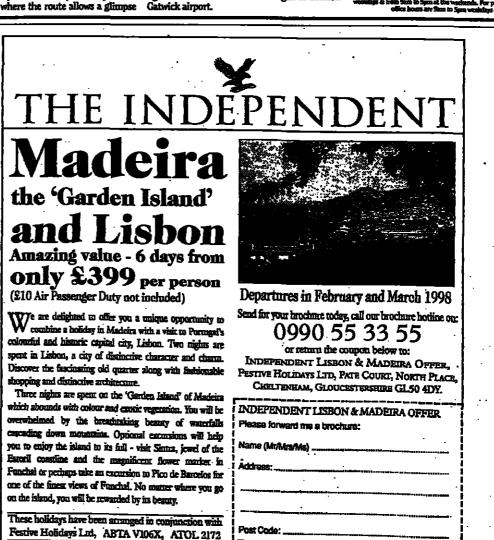
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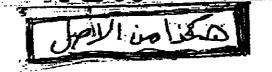
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DAYS OUT

Butter-making, rat skeletons and picnics in the orchard

The Drinkwater family travelled back a century in time at Cogges Manor Farm Museum in Witney, Oxfordshire. Catherine Stubbings talked to them afterwards.

The pace is slow at Cogges Manor Farm. A couple of Jersey cows lazily chew the cud, pigs and piglets lie sprawled across the straw in their sties and an old donkey gently nods off to the sound of children playing in the orchard. The dairymaid wanders through the farmyard, introducing animals to visitors and saving hens and ducks from enthusiastic young poultry-batterers.

This 20-acre farm is run as it would have been in Victorian times, with traditional breeds of animals, staff in authentic costume and not a tractor in sight. A few of the Cotswold stone outbuildings are used to show farm implements and machin-

ery, where hens peck around the old seed drills. Nestling in the water meadows beside the busy market town of Witney, the Manor at Cogges is in stark contrast to the housing estates around it, yet surprisingly unspoilt by them. Although the charming house dates from the 13th century in parts, it is presented as it would have been at the turn of the 20th century, when the Mawle family owned it as part of a 500-acre estate. The simply furnished rooms have flagged stone floors, panelled walls and many original features.

Upstairs a nursery and hedroom tell more about the life of the Mawle family. Another room shows rare 17th-century painted panelling. One bedroom is an activity centre where children can play traditional games or dress up in Victorian costume.

Throughout the house the smell of baking wafts up from the kitchen, where the cook makes cakes,

There is nothing particularly rare or remarkable here, but it is a lovely, low-key history lesson. Rural life at the turn of the century is perfectly

The visitors

Philippa Drinkwater took her children Harriet, eight, Charlie, five, and William, two.

Philippa: We all had a very happy day. Cogges was relaxed, low key and not commercial. William loved all the animals and the older two enjoyed the house. Charlie seemed to enjoy the historical aspects; he was very worried about the maid getting cold, having to sleep in the attic.

We arrived just in time to see the Jersey cow

being milked and the eggs being collected. Then found under the floorboards, like buttons, coins, we looked around the farmyard and barns. In the house, someone was busy in the kitchen making apple pies with apples from the garden and eggs and butter off the farm. She cooked on an old, solid fuel range and handed out biscuits and apples to hungry children. We had a lovely picnic in the orchard, then the children joined the storyteller un-

der the apple tree. It is not huge, but there was just enough to keep the children going. The displays of old farmyard implements and machinery didn't really appeal to them because, with sharp blades involved, one can't expect to work anything. However, it was nice to tie in a little local history with the display on Witney blankets. I did feel it could have been a little more hands-on.

The activity room was good, with something for everyone: Gothic arches to be built, barns to be constructed, puzzles, games and some wonderful dressing-up clothes, complete with Victorian face masks. The old-fashioned kitchen garden was full of all the sorts of things I would love to grow: apple trees, artichokes, pumpkins, lavender, flowers

Harriet: It was quite a big house, with all the rooms as they would have been in the olden days. I liked the room where they showed what they had found when they were restoring the house. There were lots of drawers with old wallpaper and plaster and things. There were also lots of things that they had

PIT STOP

After your trip to Cogges Farm take the family to Witney Lodge, Ducklington Lane, Witney, Oxfordshire OX8 71]. Situated just outside Witney at the

junction of the A40 and A415, Cogges Farm is a modern hotel with an attractive stone frontage. It has bright, practical accommodation, a rustic-style bar-lounge and a purpose-built leisure centre with a decent-size indoor pool. Family facilities include a splash pool for toddlers alongside the bright, daylight pool; children up to 16 stay free in parents' room. Other facilities include a gym, indoor swimming pool, spa bath, sauna, solarium, snooker. Access, Amex, Diners, Visa. Tei 01993 779777; fax 01993 703467 From Egon Ronay's Guide And Children

Come Too. Bookman £9.99.

jewellery and a borrid rat skeleton.

I found the farmyard and machinery a little bit boring but I liked the house. In the activity room I built a barn by putting the timbers together. It looked quite like the one where we had our drinks.

Charlie: It was not very big, just a house, a farmyard, an orchard, a few fields and a little wood, but I had a good time. I liked the farmyard best, with all the animals: cows, pigs, rabbits, funny hens with fluffy feet, a donkey, horses and some cats.

I sort of know what it would have been like in the olden days, but you had to live then to know what it was really like. There would have been no electricity, so they had candles and lanterns instead of lights. There was no television, so in the evenings they had to read or talk or play, and the girls had

The people who work here all wear olden-day clothes. They are very nice, but they don't talk much.

William liked the farm puzzles in the activity room.

Getting there: Cogges Manor Farm Museum, Church Lane, Witney (01993 703056) is signposted off the A40. There is a free car park a short walk from the museum and disabled parking on site. Opening times: March-2 November. Tuesday to Friday, 10.30am-5.30pm; Saturday and Sunday, noon-

Admission: adults £3, children (5-16) £1.50, OAP £1.75, family (two adults, two children) £8. Access: Limited for wheelchairs; some uneven ground and steps on site, especially in the house. Tape commentary and history file for Manor House first-floor displays. Call in advance for help dur-

ing your visit. Dogs: on lead in gardens, not allowed in the house. Events: Daily events such as milking, pig feeding. work with the horse and storytelling are listed on a board at the entrance. Butter-making can be seen most Sunday mornings and there are regular lacemaking and spinning demonstrations. Special weekends are 6-7 September, steam-threshing, 5 October, harvest home, 11-12 October, rag rug weekend. 6-7 December, Advent weekend 11am-

Food: Small cafeteria serves light meals, snacks, teas, home-made cakes. Children's meal: roll, juice and fromage frais, £1.50.

Shop: Small but imaginative, selling local crafts, toys, souvenirs, Witney blankets and fruit, vegetables and eggs from the farm. Tollets: Good clean facilities.



Donkey's years: Cogges farm is a trip back in time to rural Victoriana Photograph: Tom Pilston

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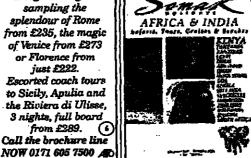


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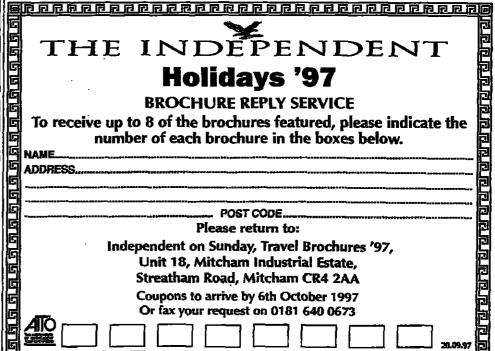


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GREEN CHANNEL

A holiday costing the Earth?

"Green" travel means more than signing up for a conservation holiday or an exotic eco-tourism adventure. It means thinking about every step of the journey, and its impact on the planet.

Trains and planes, cars and huses: how much do you know about their relative merits? The pressure group Transport 2000 (0171-388 8386) can provide you with a "gas-o-meter" which reveals all. With some Blue Peter-style skills, you can assemble two cardboard discs and compare the pollution levels you create by travelling by car, bus, train or plane, on journeys from 1km to 1,500km.

So what are the options for skiers heading for France this winter? The new Eurostar train to Bourg St Maurice (see page 5) gives the chance to check on the impact of a 1,200-km journey from London. The gaso-meter reveals that a journey

RED CHANNEL

facing the traveller

A compendium of hazards

a rumour about a lethal disease

in Florida, I stumbled upon the

concept of the sentinel chicken.

This is not a new in-flight meal,

Sentinel chickens are caged

but the term for a bird whose

role in life is to warn of the

and exposed to the bites of

mosquitoes. Scientists test their

blood looking for antibodies to

various diseases, including the

one I was tracking - St Louis

spread of disease.

encephalitis, a mozzie-borne iliness that attacks the brain and spinal cord. Sentinel chickens in

Florida are showing signs of an

Chickens get badly treated by the travel industry. Served up for upsurge of the disease. So far, there have been no more airline meals than any other beasts, even their name is human victims of the present outbreak, but evidence from the taken in vain: "Headless last one, in 1990, is disturbing. chickens", for example, is a description that might be CNN quotes officials in Orange applied to crowds at Heathrow County - where Disney World is terminal three. Now, they are located - as saying that cases in even suffering for the sake of humans began three to six travellers' health - and could weeks after the virus was first help save travellers' lives. detected in the sentinel chickens. In 1990, it killed 11 This week while checking out

people in Florida.

premium-rate call).

Dr Peter Barrett, of the Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad (MASTA), says that visitors to Florida should take precautions against mosquito bites. And I say think about ordering a vegetarian meal, to spare the suffering of another poor chicken. MASTA: 0891 224100 (a

Simon Calder

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on the new train would produce around 130kg of carbon dioxide - one of the main "greenhouse" gases. A bus would take twice as long but wreak only half the harm to the atmosphere. producing a mere 65kg of CO2.

At first sight the car appears to be the real villain, spewing 345kg of carbon dioxide into the air. But that applies to the whole vehicle, whether occupied by one person or by many. If three people drive south together, they do less harm than by train.

The confirmed individualist who insists on motoring alone does only slightly more damage than the person who flies. Taking the plane consigns 215kg of CO2 to the atmosphere.

At the moment we each generate 35kg of CO: per week. Transport 2000 says we should reduce this to 14kg. On that scale, flying to France uses 30 weeks' worth of your ration. Better start cycling to work. Sue Wheat

Fifty million home-grown holidays

We asked you to nominate your favourite family holiday in England and the response has been magnificent. Hundreds of readers have so far submitted entries, but

there is still time to win. Fifty million: that has just been announced as the final tally for holidays in England taken by British residents last year. The figure helps to explain the remarkable level of interest

that Independent readers have shown in our search for the best family holiday in England. The English Tourist Board has enlisted the help of The Independent for a new category in its annual England for Excellence awards, which reward the people and places that do most for English tourism.

We want you to vote for a new category: the Family Holiday of the Year. You may a holiday camp, or activity centre - any loca- you on your day out. tion which you feel reflects the best of an Eng-

location is actually in England - we've had a few entries for other parts of the UK.)

and members of the travel staff at The Independent, plus representatives of the English Tourist Board, will vis-

it each location and evaluate it in the light of readers' comments. Your entry will earn you the chance to bask in your nominee's glory at the England for Excellence awards ceremony in London on 4 November. If yours is chosen as the best nomination for England's top

family holiday, you will be able to

attend the ceremony. We will also invite your family, to visit a new attraction for our regular Outings feature. The English Tourist Board will bring you to London for the ceremony, while The Independent will provide choose a resort, or city; a campsite, or hotel; a journalist and photographer to accompany

To enter, write to The Best Family Hob-

lish holiday. (Do make sure, though, that the day Award, PO Box 4AP, London W1A 4AP Mullion Cove Hotel, Mullion Cove, near with the following information: your nominated family holiday - and, in 100 words or fewer, A shortlist of the entries will be drawn up your reasons for choosing it; your name, address, and daytime telephone number.

Here are two of the entries uinely welcome. we've already received:

Whitby (picture above) "Where adventure, fun and history combine to whet the appetite for all the family to savour. Steeped in history, Whitby was the largest whaling port in England. Captain Scoresby invented the Crows Nest, and Captain Cook sailed the world.

Besides sand, sea and fishing, there are scenic cliff-top walks that are a bird spotter's paradise. Amusement arcades, golf, swimming baths and the theatre, in conjunction with excellent guest houses such as Grantley House, make Whitby a family holiday second to none."

Heiston, Cornwall

The wonder of its setting is equalled only by the deliciousness of the food and the friendliness of the staff, Families (and dogs) are gen-

The road ends at the hotel so older children can explore freely. Details of local walks : and beaches are provided in each room. When our son wanted a sea-fishing trip, they arranged it - and dried our clothes afterwards!

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So far, South West England is doing especially well, while East Anglia looks surprisingly thin. And England's big cities are feel a tad neglected, too. You have 10 days to get your bid in. The closing date is Tuesday, 30 September.

Usual Newspaper Publishing pic rules apply. The travel editor's decision is final.

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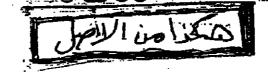
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10/RURAL

An encounter between this world and the next

Go north of the Border at this time of year, and mysteries develop on every side. Consider the huge country house near Kelso in which I recently stayed a night. As we drove towards it, my companion. Mark, recounted an unsettling experience he'd had there on an earli-

The house is so large that the family occupies only one wing; much of the rest is open to the public, but some areas are shut up and rarely visited. During his first stay Mark had been shown round by his host, who carried a large hunch of keys to open the doors between one corridor and the next, and those of individual rooms.

Outside one door he stopped and announced, "This is the Blue Room". Turning the key, he went in. The room asked why, the answer was, "Oh - people don't like being in here, so we don't use it". With the doors of room and passage relocked, the party continued their tour, and nothing untoward occurred un- to Loch Choire half a century ago. Yet til they reached the ground floor. Then they heard a bell ringing. The sound led them to the old servants' pantry, where there was a line of indicator-panels high on the wall...

You've guessed; it was the bell in the Blue Room that had rung. Had they somehow shut a child or a dog in there? No: everyone was present and correct. Nevertheless, they went back to check - and, of course, the room was as they had found it, empty.

No explanation had been forthcoming; so when we arrived, in time for supper, I hoped that the room I had been allocated did not turn out to be blue. It was not, and I slept like a stone.

meeting with friends who come from that outstandingly beautiful deer forest, Loch Choire, in the interior of Sutherland. One would expect such a seclud-

DUFF HART-DAVIS

contained no furniture and when Mark ed place to harbour mysteries; and sure enough, a curious story is told about it by the veteran sporting artist, Raoul

> Now in his mid-90s, Raoul first went still he describes with astonishing im-

mediacy what happened to him there. One gloomy, overcast afternoon he was out with a stalker, on the high ground towards the southern end of the forest, when they saw a lame stag limping down a steep face towards a patch of woodland on the shore of the water known as the Black Loch. As the animal was obviously injured, Raoul suggested that they concerted by an experience which try to dispatch it; but the stalker was re- seemed to lie somewhere between this luctant to go anywhere near the wood,

which he believed to be haunted. They decided that Raoul would go

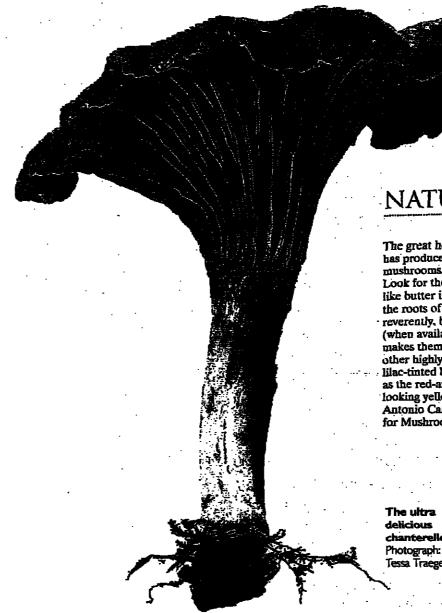
down alone, and meet his companion later. The lame stag had disappeared into the wood; when Raoul reached its Ou, then, to the Highlands, and to a edge, he found it was almost impenetrable. Trees had fallen; undergrowth had sprung up through their lichen-encrusted branches; everything seemed to be dead or dying.

A stealthy advance into such a thick-

et was impossible, but Raoul was determined to catch up with the wounded beast, and crashed ahead. Then, reaching an open glade filled with dim, opaque light, he was startled to see stags rising up all round him - grey, emaciated beasts, clearly of great age.

At first he thought they were phantoms. Then he decided they were alive, but on their last legs: like elephants, they had congregated at a single point, to die. The only humane action seemed to be to finish off as many as possible, so he shot the three nearest to him. At the reports, the others drifted slowly away into the surrounding trees; when he went to inspect one of the bodies, he found it was nothing but skin and bone. Instead of weighing a couple of hundred pounds, it was so light that he could lift it with one hand.

The stalker was mightily relieved to see him return unscathed - and Raoul himself has remained, ever since, dis-



NATURE WATCH

The great heat of the summer, followed by heavy rain, has produced a bumper crop of woodland mushrooms, notably the ultra-delicious chanterelles. Look for their bright-yellow, fluted shapes glowing like butter in the grass or moss on moist banks round the roots of birch, beech or pine trees. Pick them reverently, because in Harrods they cost £30 per kilo (when available), and their unique, nutty flavour makes them a rare treat. The woods are full, also, of other highly prized fungi such as ceps, morels and lilac-tinted blewits, but beware poisonous types such as the red-and-white fly agaric and the innocentlooking yellow stainer. For safety's sake, take with you Antonio Carluccio's excellent field guide, A Passion for Mushrooms (Pavilion, £9.99).

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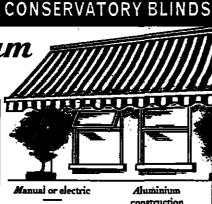
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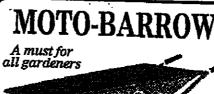
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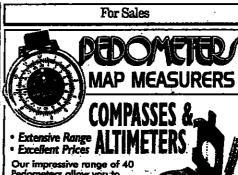
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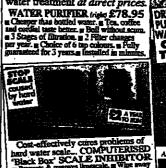
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SEEKING MEN

BORDER EXPERIENCE BORDER EXPERIENCE

Youthful, attractive, protessional female, 45, 53°, anjoys
walks, travel-looks, art, cultural experiences, seeks advenburous soul mate, 40°-55, similar
inferests. Basad in South
Wales, the West, Sorders.

122133

SPECIAL PERSON

Lady, 47, 57°, looks younger
with young outlook, inpulsive
but lities a single life, pleasing
to look at, looking for companion with lots of understanding.
TLC and time to care. String
area. 122099

HELLO!
Independent, Intelligent female.

ATTACHER TO THE BURNESS OF THE STATE OF THE SHAPE OF THE

KISMET?
Tall, protessional female, 40s, with warm & happy disposition with own teeth, seeks similar gentlemen, who also enjoys socialising, music, theatre & dinning out, for Intencisty/relationship, 772117 ATTRACTIVE SPARKLEN
Outgoing, sment, sincere, protessional temale, 5°F, enjoys
keeping fit, dinking out, theating,
music, driving, socialising,
seeks successful, genuine, single, tall, attractive male, late
40e-50, N/S, GSOH, Editiourgh
area. \$72108

TAKE ME TO THE MOON
Flacent total, well-educated.

Elegent, loyal, well-educated, widely-travelled, fun-foring, continents lady, 51, of youthut appearance, of even more youthut nature, GSOH, seeks mission and mission controller. \$22104

EXCTING WOMAN
Caring woman, 51, seeks interesting, sorted, caring man, 45+,
6. likes the good things in tite,
to talk all right or be still and
smell he roses. 272134
COUNTRY TEA AND CHAT
Cutet but friendly, Cambridgeshire female, with interests in
photography, horse racing,
antiques, old buildings/vehicles, likes animals, cycling,
books, the country, seeks,
horse-lowing male, 45-55 for
filendishp. 272106

Am Tasking for too rouch?

272083

SEEKING

SOMEONE SPECIAL

Cutgoing, caring temale, 21, 54°. litea reading, walking, music, cooking, seeks handsome, intelligent, professional male, 28-30, for triendship & reletionship, 272103

IN PURSUIT OF WONDER Female postgraduste, full of life and laughter, 25, enjoys art and escapism, travel, books, movies, seeks day-dreaming soul to dip into leas and life with integrity, intelligence and imagination. 271696

R.I.I. THERE?
Professional, attractive, caring, witty, Scottleh-Asian fermule, 31, seeks attractive, professional male, 29-45, with varied interests, to stars winningdining, good conversation, special

Interess, to share winning/dining, good conversation, special
fun, friandship, relationship.
London area, T2715
SHROPSHIRE/MID WALES
Caring, attectionate ternale,
serty 30s, medulim build, serting/equestrian or who
entloys countryside, riding,
walking, to share togs fires,
cold beers, tim and companionstip. T27125

cold beens, fun and companion-ship. \$72125
SEEKING KINDRED SPIRIT!
Bright, vegetarian, sociable famale, 35, N/S, loves wildlife, mourtains, oceans, seeks tall, dark, handsome vet or similar, who laughs easily and enjoys walking, talking and red wine. Bath area. \$71949
PSYCHIC SEEKS SOUL MATE Adractive brunsitie, green eyes,

Attractive brunette, green eyes, seeks professional guy, 30+, tor romance. Kent & 5 East. Tribia

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?

Tail, vibrant female, 22, seeks
male, London area, for friendship, possible relationship.

ship, possible relationship. 271940

SEEKING A SUPERMAN

Outgoing, attractive, triendly, professional female, 25, long black/blue, social smoker, arimal lover, likes socialising, aerobios, house fiding, seeks tall, good-looking, stylish, professional maie, 25-34, for triend-ship/romance. 27:1914

COME CLIMB WITH ME

Outgoing female, 29, enjoys climbing, canceling, butdoor pursuits, seeks similar mais, for friendship, possibly more. S. YorkshiprisSheffield area preferred. 27:1933

THROUGH PhD risity, way lemans, Ju, seeks male, tor friendship, compan-lonship and for distraction with food, conversation & laughter. 171936 LOVELY ROSE OF ABERFAN LOVELY ROSE OF ABERFAN
Divorced mum, 31, seeks honest, genuine male, for friendaria, possible ralationship. S.
Wales. 37:1825
MEDOLESEX MUM.
Romantic, African tady, 35,
piaces, seeking male, 35, scorpio, piacean, cancerfan, N/3,
for long lasting relationship.
137:1866

ARE YOU THERE?
Attractive, honest, caring lady, who loves the sea, return, welding, music, history, reading, seeks tail, etong, mether, similar Celt, who would value a special. Irusing friendship, possible relationship. 27195

"BE MY LOVE" Educated, attractive, intelligent, stm, caring widow, 60e, own carhome, enjoys classical music, theatres, concerts, waling, seeing places, seeks kind,

professional/academic mass, for caring relationship, Sussey/Surey area preferred, 271938

ABERDEEN LASS
Sparking, structive 8 intelligent female, 43, seeks tat, dark mate, 33-49, for warmshand friendship, 271950

LONDON LIFE

E-maile, 98, into walking,

and irrendship. 271950

LONDON LIFE
Female. 38, into walking, cycling, wining 8 chining, seeks tall, sincere male, to enjoy London ille. 271958

INDEPENDENT
PROFESSIONAL
Warm, sociable, sensitive female, young 39, seeks genuine, inselligent male, 38-48, for intendship and happy times. London area. 271900

BRIGHT
PROMESSING FUTURE
Professional male athelic, loving, caring, understanding, dependancy, professional male athelic, and the professional male athelic, 39-46, with excellent personal qualities, VGSCH, NG, for possible manriage. 271915

BRIGHTON WOMAN
Professional male athelic, 39-46, with excellent personal qualities, VGSCH, NG, for possible manriage. 271915

BRIGHTON WOMAN
Professional male athelic, and female, 43, enjoys people, live are lively music, film, Sunday walks, tiess and radio seeks men who is happy and confident about himself.
271968

STYLISH AND FUN
Altractive, articulate, styllah, green-aved, akim, binnele.

STYLISH AND FUN Attractive, antiouslate, styliah, green-eyed, silm, blonde fernale, M/S, VGSOH, varied interests, seeks attractive, accompilished, tell male, 35-45, with stocenty, SOH and opi-mism. Cheshire-Wirnal besed. 771937

21957
SMPLY THE BEST
Sim, blonde, warm, intelligent,
professional, generally happy,
attractive fernele, early 40s,
Bess food, wine, chama, gal-leries, seeks handsome, pro-fessional, tovable mate,
London, 271921
FUN & FRUENDSHIP
Gentte, fernimine, professional Gentle, leminine, professional female, mid-40s, enjoys the arts, romentic evenings, history, good food/wine, seeking confident, sensitive, humou-rous male, for romance. NE Hampshire, 12/1939

Any Overior? E - 000 216 318 AVON CALLING SRISTOL
Attractive, professional lemals,
48, bored by meals infout,
halss sport, prefers life enhancing music, outrageous an and
interesting views, seeks educated mals. 271883

"SLENDER FEMALE, 48"
Available for limited period;
some insurbishment carried
out would suit warm, versadie
male, for all occasions. At
home mostly in Yorkshire area.
271885

SOMETHING IN COMMON Sociable, attractive lemale, 40s, GSOH, N/S, enjoys sports, theatre, films, travel, seeks haginative male, 40-30, serious-rainded but with sense of fun, for intendship/raidionship, W. Yorkshire area. 23'1908

CHINESE FEMALE Presentable temals, young 40s, 52', seeks reliable, protessional, British/European male, for Intendship/relationship. London area. 23'1909

NORTH LONDON
Sparky, Intelligent, warm, pretty learnets, 50, varied interests, seeks male companionship, maybe more, phone mel 13'1928 THE PHONE CALL THAT COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE $G \Box$

...or should I say where you least expect it. Who'd have thought placing a personal ad would lead to something like this? I met Chris about two months ago and here we are, going strong. Tonight we're having a nice meal: later, we're off to The Cornedy Store. He's good looking, with a great personality AND a terrific sense of humour.
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ENGLISH LADY
Attractive, full of join de vivre,
51, seeks well-traveled, cultured, sincere, gentleman
friend, 271964
WEST COUNTRY LADY
With extractive, virializant KIND GENUINE MALE? KUND GENIUME MALE?
Tall, stender, Intendry protectional lemale, enjoys music,
meals out, pubs, coey evenings
in, seeks tail, humorous, settled
man, 27-34. After many desppointments, i'm seeking a lasting relationship. 27:1598 COMPLETELY HAT STAND
Female graduate, 33, blonde/
green, sporty, silm, GSOH,
seeks similar mele, 33-40, for
friendship, possible relationship, 121890

WEST COUNTRY LADY
Witty, attractive, intelligent
temale, seeks similar male, 4055, with hair, must be sensitive,
itt, love the outdoors, wathing,
no couch poetoes, for friendship/companionship, 251907
ORPHANED HEART
SEEKS ADOPTION
Lively, outgoing, sensitive, loving, fun-hoving temale, 58 going
on 21, demon cook, music
lover, seeks adventurous,
humorous, honest, intelligent
male, 45+, for fun, montight
and romance, London area,
251951
DO YOU FITTHIS BILL?
Attractive, European, sim. Professional, slim, attractive, 30-something temale, 5%, into positics and music, seeks intelligent & articulate mele, 30-45, for relationship. M40 & Oxfordshire. \$71552 Oxfordshire. 22:1552
SI EEP/LESS IN SUFFOLK
Tall, striking, fleme-haired
female, mid-30s, seeks excellent company of an educated,
independent man, 6 +, 10 share
good things in file, 17 you anjoy
sunset walks, good food/wine
and adventure, then please
call. 22:1735
SEEKS COMPANIONSHIP Attractive, European, sim, intelligent and artistic temale,

Attractive, European, Săm, intelligent and artistic temale, enjoys music, the arts and intelligent conversation, seeks similar, musilim male, 39-45, musi be easygoing, kind and loyal. London area. 2*1895

SERIAL MONOGAMIST
Attractive, independent, stylish temale, 40s, seeks philosophical male, to share arts, good food, wine, opining, travel, welling, laughter and tile. N West. 2*1955

TRUTH ABOUT
CAT'S & DOGS
Female, enjoys long talks, sunset walks, tune sendwiches, music, lots of laughter, seeks mele, to bel madily in love with. Surrey area. 2*1728

EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN
Stunning, beautiful inside/ous, strong, humorous, balanced, articulate woman, seeks successful man of integrity and spirit, NS. 6*4, and who's ready for relationship of mutual giving and excitement. London/Heris/Beds/Bucks/Cambe. 2*1777

LOYELY WOMAN. mbe. 271717
LOVELY WOMAN......30, London-based, seeks adventurous, kindred spirit, 28-

streamands, mountainsering, books and weetends away. Tent provided. 21:1748

FUN

Mibred race termale, 23, green eyes, looking for fun, likes cubs, pubs, art, seeks male, 23:30, for triendship/relation-eith London area. 27:1897 ship. London area. 121697

SEEKING WOMEN

ORPHANED HEART SEEKS ADOPTION SEEKS ADOPTION
Sincere, bysal, romanic, intellgent, good-looting, with male,
28, 6', enjoys theatre, daing
out, walking, cinema, conversation, seeks semilar female, 2545, no ties, N/S, for an, friendsinjuristationship. Midiands
see. Will travel. #27108

NICE ASIAN GLIY
Well-built & attractive male,
aged 29, 575", with VGSOH,
seeks female, any nationality,
for triendship, possible relationship. #27089

SONG WRITER SEEKS...

SONG WRITER SEEKS... SONG WHITER SEERS...
.nspiration! Creative graduate, trab song-writing, music,
gigs, lazz dubs, poetry, current
affairs, intelligent conversation
& chiling out, seeks ternale kindred-spirit, for triendship/fun,
NE England. 122123
GREEK LADV?

SEEKS COMPANIONSHIP
Fur-loving, young-at-heart
temets, 38, interests Include
walking, playing tennis, cinema, music, eating out, seeks
intellectual cultured, sansitive
male, 36-45, GSOH, for Mendship, maybe romance. 22:1756
SPONTANEOUS LADY
Affectionate, professional
woman, 38, with 3 cals, 2
teenagers & fluct-tup house,
seeks funny, warm, solvent
man, to share fun times, special moments, lets leugh
logether. 22:1699 GREEK LADY?
Romantic, British-Greek/
Cypriot male, enjoys music,
walking, winning/dinning and
having fun, seaks loving, sincere, genuine soul mate, to
share TLC with, GSOH a musti
722127 LOOKING FOR LEFTY COOKING FOR LEFT IN ROMANIC (rock, fotk, classical), chama, books, theatre, waits, seeks similar woman, 24-35. Pref sinistral London, 17:2130 AMBITIOUS? Handsome, Intelligent, roman-tic, hard-working, ambitious,

Male, 34, seeks professional ternate, 24-39, for triendship/ relationship. Midlands area.

together, 121699 Successful professional female, early 40s, seeks Intelligent, creative, professional male, 30-45, GSCH, for lasting relationship. Genuine replies come. 122094 SURREY MAN
Male solicitor, 34, N/S, seeks
ledy, 30-40, for friendship/refationship. \$22132

BUSY BOOY? only. Kent. 221757 THIS LIFE

THIS LIFE!
Silm. attractive, intelligent female, seeks similar, tallish male, 29-39, to enjoy Eleworth Kelly, Thai food, cool clubs, Alan Shearar, London life, this life, Carabbean aunsets, cold beer and more? 22/17/12

TRY ANYTHING ONCE!
Sim, easygoing, attractive, sporty male, 35, smoker (non-snoring) seeks slim, attractive female, 25-35, GSOH essential, for friendship, fun 8 ?
London area. 27:2128
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
White, athletic, fit male, 35, 511°, skim build, lives in Manchester, enjoys rugby union, hill walking, climbing, reading, writing, art house, chema, seeks professional female, N/S, late 20s-early 35, for friendship, possible relationship. 13:2091 relationship. 12:2091 GOOD-LOOKING

GOOD-LOOKING
Male 30s, sam with long blond/
blue, 510°, seeks formale, must
be good-looking & Intelligent,
for lasting relationship.
Worsester Aras. \$22.080

TALL_DARK & HANDSOME
Self-employed, bi-fingual, professional male, 39, 63°, N/S.
average build, enjoye classical
music, travel, foreign cultures,
cooking, seeks beautiful,
happy, intelligent ferrele, 2030, to share conversation,
thendship, possibly more,
London preferred. \$22110

HANDSOME & DARK
Single, easygoing male, 41,

HANDSOME & LIANK Single, easygoing male, 41, 57°, sim/madium, with GSOH, seeks lemale, for friendship/ retationship. London area. TALL & GOOD LOCKING

TAIL & GOOD LOOKING Male 40, seeks lovely, charty female, for good times and triendship. Tai 2129

LAUGHING WOMAN
Can you sing, dance or turn a caper? Stylish, Bohamtan, companionate, intelligent male, seeks maybe continents!, maybe hack maybe you. maybe black, maybe you, woman, 30s, for general mem-mers, with rugged, early 40s chap, who'll dance your socks chap, who't dance your socks off. T2146

REFORMED WORKAHOLIC Professional, successful and attractive, sensitive male, 44, NS, e-floys participating sports, arts, white/ddning travel, outdoor pursuits, music, seeks attractive. Intelligent seeks attractive, intelligent female, 27-38, for long-term relationship, possible marriage. Cheshire. 22/208

WARM CUDDLY WARM CUDDLY
FRIEND WANTED
Adaptable widower, early 70s,
very much alone, seeks a
friend to share life with and to
share classical music, good
lood & travel. N.Wiltshire erea

GENTLE PISCEAN

Gentle male, 45, needs to be needed, offers love and mar-riage, to temale who wants to flourish and be herself. Bristol

NEW MAN, NEW WOMAN? Humourous, sensitive, west Michards, publishing man. 48, enjoys movies, theatre, the country and life, seeks soul mats. 272098

PROFESSIONAL MALE!
Tall, sim, attractive, friendly, easygoing male, 35, enjoys restaurants, conema, visiting historical places, country walks, seeks lively, charily female, with a mischevous streak, and a great smile. London area. \$22136

YOUNG-AT-HEART As the saying goes, there may be snow on the rool but there is fire down below, Man, 80+, 7t & rating to go, seeks young, Out-going female, 50+. N/London. going fem 82135

WRITER WRITER
Sim, dark, handsome. Oxford
educated. Jewish male, 34.
53, mena job, seeks special
female, for inendship/relationship. \$22126

TALL ATTRACTIVE MALE 161. ALL ALL HARLING MALE
65 looks 50! No money, no car,
plenty of love to give, enloys
countryside, animals, sea, writing, art, just emerging from the
of isolation, seeks friendly
temale, nationality irrelevant.

CHAMPAGNE

& CANDLE LIGHT

Easygong, sersive, outgoing, carning male, 23, 5°11°, silm build, enjoys socialising, sports, diring out, pubbing, chabing, seeks outgoing but also quiet, raring, approachable, easygoing terrale soul mate, 18-27, for relationship. E2*131

VOLING MAN 25 SEFECS

POETIC KNIGHT.... In amisted amour, 25, cooks mean forma, toves with conversation & pizza, seeks pretly, intelligent, dermael in distress, for triendship, fun, conversation and good times. \$22102

LOCKING FOR FLIM LOCKING FOR FUM
Do you enjoy pubs, clubs,
music & tootheir? Then give me
a call! Down-to-earth male 26,
seeks similar female, for friendshiptraletionship. London area.

NORTH WALES/ CHESHIRE MAN Stylish, sensitive, professional, well-educated, Celtic male, 27. well-ducated, Cettic make, 27, enjoys art, sport, especially tennis, seeks similar famale, for stimulating times, friendship/relationship. 322109
GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT Attractive, Intelligent male, 27, working artist, seeks attractive and cuiddy female, 18-40, with cold hands and a warm heart. London, Surrey or Kent. 522149 COME WALK WITH ME Professional, shm. youthful, energetic, educated, Christian male, 40, enjoys music, walkng, cycling, swimming, own home, parl-lime tather, seeks temale compamon, to share life & interests. Kent 21920

Single, professional, solvent & successful, handsome male, 39, 5 T.UT. GSCH, soeks charming, stylish female, Lancashire, LOVING SUSSEX MALE ELOYING SUSSEX MALE
Bright, carng, altechonets,
sim, solvent, Francophile, reiable male, 39, 55°, enjoys
cycing, walking, cooking, sharing title. Horeham/Sussex
based but mobile. 12:1937

DOUTRY and sire, seeks sour mate. 22:096

AMEABLE LONDON MAN Sometimes alternative, faithy quiet, veggie, graduate male, with lowly job, young 53, riferested in like in mystemes, health and longovity, seeks intelligent women, any nationality, who can laugh. Enquires welcome. 22:144 MTERESTED IN TRAVEL
Outgoing male, 65, Bles travelling, poetry, reading, music,
seeks stim, tall temale, 50-70,
GSOH, who bles to travel, for
friendship & relationship,
TEXOS? Any Queries?
If you should have any questions about any aspects of our have Research Mervice, places call

FREE on 0800 216 318. Male, 49, many interests, seeks lemale, any age, for triandship first, maybe more. 12:1960 FRIENDLY BLACK MALE 40

HIGHDLY SLACK MALE, 40 Honest, furstworthy & fun, enjoys music, paz/latin/soul, complimentary therapies, nature, animals & practises as chi, seeks lemale, with similar interests, for fun and finendship, 221918

HAMPSHIRE ROMANCE
Professional, tall, attractive
mala, 40, seeks lady, 30-40, to
share life's ups & downs, picnics & sursets. 1271892

Professional, exceptionally fit and well-educated male, 41, unu weireducated maie, 41, seeks silm, smarl and sophisti-cated female. 25-35, N/S. Independent wealth no obsta-cle. 221959

THE ROAD
LESS TRAVELLED
A camp word, a mid cares, a
gracious gift of tenderness,
weary, emotional adventurer,
seeks winsome tellow traveller,
20-35, to share dreams, distilu-sionments and packed hunch
Sensible walking shoes
required T1915
SNY PLAYWRIGHT SHY PLAYWRIGHT

Shim male, young 43, not entirely confrontable with new age or middle age, seeks slim, intelligent lemale, 35-43, for possible relationship. Plymouth area. 201961 area. 271961 **SOLVENT & SOARING** Hampshire based, presentable, male graduate, 43, 5'11", N/S,

enjoys long walks, Scottish walks, good beer, red wine, music, seeks female, to enjoy, share and endure life. 221919 DOWN-TO-EARTH PAINTER Genuine male, 43, loves the arts, camping, seeks similar female, to celebrate life with. London area. 221904 CHRISTMAS IN SIGILY? Intelligent, well-travelled compassionate & withy male, 43, with a varied & interesting cener, enjoys country walks, outdoor pursuits & reading, seeks mobile, adventurous lemale, 25+, for partnership. Birminoham/Hemiport/Worcest

er. 12 1905

Straight, single, mature student, 30, recently returned to Glasgow, seeks new triend, for chema trips. Movedrome & GFT chema visits experience necessary. 27:1946

BOHEMIAN SOUL MATE? insolvent but interesting, single lather, 44, seeks attractive, intelligent female, to go rock mengent temale, to go rock climbing, exploring the great outdoors, and sharing cultural expenences. North Wales orea. 27:1901

SPEND LOVE WITH ME

SPEND LOVE WITH MEE
Tall, Glosswegaan male, 40,
Interests include classical
music, cheme, country fairs,
travelling, soeks smalar femalo,
30-40, in Scotland area.

GENUINE AND CARING Bachelot, 47, 5", medium build, fair complexion, blue eyes, no less, GSOH, lives life to the full, often outrageous, somotimes unpradictable, seeks southern Meditermant attn ternale, 38+, NS. London area, 27:1958 DESERT ISLAND CASTAWA seeks Brighton mermaid, ke share legoon and only coconsi-tree. Creative, intelligent, hirry

term hin and laughter. 27:1827

JACK OF DIAMONDS

Cosmopolitan, wid. crazy-at-POSITIVE ENERGY

POSITIVE ENERGY
Tail, successful, athlotic male,
50, 6'3", good litestyle, N-S,
into litness, gym, narning, travel, the arts, dogs, seeks optimistic, fit, Ively lemaic, 40-45,
to begottern relationship 271917

Male, young 50, seeks now lemale triend/partner. Buys ear lyish music, just recalls the rest Likes natural history, but linds pursuits fonesome divorce. N/S 221913

SEEKING MEN

MIDLANDS GUY

Gay male, 27, enjoys country-side, cooking, chema, seeks genume, caring male, 24-33, for lasting relationship. 27:2088

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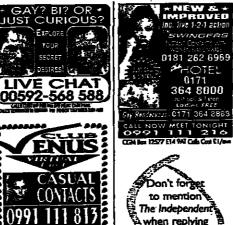


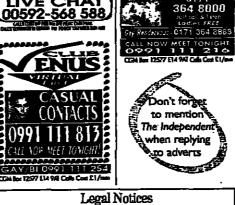


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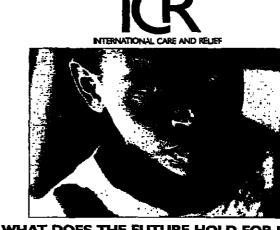


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INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



'I know my faults and I see them in other writers. We're vain, selfish, egocentric bastards ... You start off spoiled if you become a writer and become more spoiled if you are a success'

Norman Mailer used to raise hell and profile killers but now he has written a book about Jesus. What's happened?

> Find out in John Carlin's extraordinary profile in the Sunday Review

Tomorrow marks another stage in the evolution of the independent on Sunday, writes Rosie Boycott. We have made changes designed to bring you an even better Sunday newspaper. As you will discover, News and Comment are now in separate sections, with a new Second Section embracing both our excellent Children and our highly regarded Sport pages. There are several new features for instance, What the Papers Said - an off-beat, critical view of how the week's news has been presented by other newspapers. Our Susiness section now includes property and personal finance, because we aim to make the world of money exciting, accessible and relevant to you all. Our unique Real Life section expands and now stands alone as does our get-up-and-go Travel section. We've also introduced essential information in Sinart Moves to help you get ahead in your career, plus pages of job ads, so you're ahead of the game when the week starts on Monday. As ever The Sunday Review is unrivalled - still an outstanding combination of brilliantly written features and challenging coverage of arts and books. This week, for instance, don't miss Tina Brown's interview with the late Princess of Wales, or John Carlin's candid conversation with Norman Mailer. In response to your interest we're increasing our science coverage and from now on we'll be covering breakthroughs in new technology, as well as up-dates on all that's new on the Internet. Give it a try. I believe you'll enjoy it.



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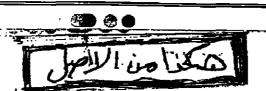
'You see, Charles is not a leader. He's a follower. He was born to the wrong job. He'd have been so happy with a house in Tuscany, being a host to artists. He just wasn't cut out for what he got ...

Earlier this summer, Diana, Princess of Wales, talked frankly about her life to Tina Brown, editor of the New Yorker.

Read the full story of their encounter in this week's Sunday Review



ROSIE BOYCOTT EDITOR INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



13/GARDENING

The name of the rose – and its grower

ANNA

PAVORD

Zephyrine Barbarachild runs a one-woman gardening business from a base in Lancashire. She talked to Anna Pavord about her circuitous route to the business that gives her satisfying work all the year round.

If your parents christen you with a name like Zephyrine, you are surely destined for a horticultural career. Where else do you ever see the name but in association with 'Zéphirine Drouhin', the pink-flowered Bourbon rose, famous for its thomlessness? For a long time Zephyrine Barbarachild tried to escape her fate. She fled from university (where she read languages) to hide in a croft in Aberdeenshire. There she kept goats, and attempted to forget the three beautiful gardens that her parents had made while she was growing up in Cheshire.

It worked for a while, but then, by a sneaky subterfuge, destiny arranged a date for her at the Quakers' meeting-house at Brigflatts, Sedbergh. She'd applied for and got the job of warden, which seemed the time, it's come in useful. innocuous enough. But there was a garden

attached to the meeting-house and as well as sweeping out the building, making tea and doing other jobs that wardening demanded, Zephyrine Barbarachild found herself tinkering in

this garden, planting things, thinking about it, when she could have been thinking about by the patio/construction professionals goats or trade unions or macrobiotics, or that she calls "the flat-bed truck brigade", any of the other things that had from time to time been important in her life.

Realising how stealthily her doppelgänger was creeping up on her, she chucked in the Cumbrian meeting house and charged off instead to mid-Wales - always a good place to head for in a crisis. There she fell in with some herbalists and, learning on the job, mas swags. became chief dispenser at a centre for natural healing.

"But it was hard living in mid-Wales," says Ms Barbarachild. "The people are so She buys the bulbs wholesale, pots them bloody miserable." So she went off to try up and starts them into growth in the dark, London, feeling, as did many at the time, cool conditions below - ideal for forcing that to have lived at all, you had to have . hyacinths. Then when the bulbs have rather fussy all-girl band.

The job involved delivering regular food parcels to the band's various gigs, but it all had to be done by bike because she couldn't drive. "If I'd had a driving licence, I might have become their roadie," she muses, seeming to mind the opportunity she missed to add yet another episode to the tale of her picaresque career.

But, to cut a long story short, gardening got her in the end. It was her brother's fault. He, being a lecturer in horticulture at St Albans, was her first port of call when she wanted to find out about taking cuttings from a fuchsia. He told her, and delivered a bolt of information about horticultural courses at the same time.

So perhaps it's the fuchsia's fault rather than her brother's that she now runs a onewoman gardening business, Rose Among Thorus, from a base in Lancaster. She gives horticultural advice, takes on garden maintenance and can do garden design. She also creates dried flower arrangements to order and makes Christmas wreaths and swags.

Could she have set up the business without doing her course, I wonder. "No," she says. "Although I didn't enjoy it much at What, especially, had been useful, I

asked. "Pruning." she replied without hesitation. "Clients get into a terrible twist about pruning, when and how to do it. It's the sort of thing that my kind of business can easily take on."

She sees herself fitting into the niche left who are keener on sloshing around concrete than they are on wielding secateurs. There is a living to be made in her field, she says, but you have to accept that it is seasonal. The slump in outdoor work between November and March is what prompted ber to diversify into dried flowers and Christ-

Ms Barbarachild's Lancaster house has a cellar, so she has recently started up another sideline: producing potted hyacinths.



potted hyacinths are just what they need to give away as Christmas presents.

Her garden is remarkable for the number of trees that she persuades to grow in pots. Much of the garden is contained in a small concreted yard behind the terraced house, so pots are the only option.

A twisty hazel (Corylus avellana 'Contorta') shares one pot with a climbing hydecidua, which must be at least 10ft tall, and

Road, Lancaster LA1 5BD (01524 383325). and clients round and persuades them that in the spare bedroom. And yes, she does NCH, you can go on to study for a Nation- Square, London SWIX 8PS.

Term peoples and windfall frest into page, frests juice.

have That Rose. It grows in the little front al Diploma in Horticulture and then a garden with variegated fuchsia and Clem- Higher National Diploma. Different colleges offer different options. At Merrist Wood College, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3
Rose Among Thorns is based at 35 Cromwell 3PE (01483 232424), you can study either amenity horticulture (which is what Ms Zephyrine Barbarachild studied for her Na- Barbarachild did) or Commercial Horticultional Certificate of Horticulture (a one-year ture. The first teaches the science of gardening course) at Myerscough College, Myerscough and the skills that underpin it. The second drangea. Next to it is a potted larch, Larix Hall, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 concentrates more on nursery production. At less rare, so more moderately priced books. ORY (01995 640611). This is the first build-least 35 colleges offer courses leading to an comes as a palliative. It's very good on quite lived in the capital. There she became a greened up and the buds are beginning to a rather smaller Norfolk Island pine, Arau- ing-block necessary to qualify for a horti- NCH. For a full list send a large SAE to the modern books from small publishers such macrobiotic cook, most especially to a show, fat and juicy, she invites her friends caria heterophylla, which spends its winters cultural career. If you are successful in the Institute of Horticulture, 14/15 Belgrave as Tim Buxbaum's Scottish Gardening

Zephyrine Barbarachild succumbed to her calling and is now in the bedding business Photograph: News Team

WEEKEND WORK

There are several hardy annuals which will make a good show early next year if you sow them outside now, in the place where you want them to flower.

Sow them as thinly as possible, cover lightly with sifted soil or compost and firm this down on top of the seeds. Protect with netting against cats and birds until the seedlings are properly established. Do not thin the seedlings until the spring. There are bound to be casualties before then.

Annuals such as poppy, calendula, lark-spur, limnanthes (called "fried egg" because each flower has a brilliant yellow centre surrounded by white-tipped petals), love-inthe-mist, clarkia and cornflower can all be treated in this fashion.

Take cuttings of shrubs such as berberis, phlomis and potentilla. They will root most easily in a light mixture of sand and peat. Choose 6in-9in shoots and pull them off the parent bush leaving a reasonablesized "beel" (a slip of old wood) attached. Bury them about 3in deep and firm the compost down well around the cuttings.

After picking the last peaches and nectarines, prune wall-trained trees and tie in new shoots to replace old, fruited shoots. Cut out entirely any shoots that grow straight out of the front of the tree.

Check ties regularly on top-heavy plants such as dahlias and chrysanthemums. Dahlias, especially, suffered during the downpours of August, but there is still time for them to produce new flowers.

Weed carefully round cyclamen corms, which tend to get forgotten after the leaves dive underground. The flowers of C hederifolium are a great treat in early September, and they flourish among tree roots where few other plants will settle.

CUTTINGS

A new list of second-hand gardening books has just arrived from Mary Bland of Augop, Evenjobb, Nr Presteigne, Powys LD8 2PA (014547 560218). I'm still recovering from the sorrow of having lost, through dithering, a fabulous though expensive 1747 edition of The Compleat Florist from another second-hand bookseller. This list of

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WEEKEND WALK

A stroll in a cascade of memories

BRIGID

MCCONVILLE

ed valleys, waterfalls, coastal heath, spectacular sea cliffs - but this one does.

It starts at Lynmouth, a pretty town built on the sides of a deep ravine on the north Devon coast. Follow the East Lyn River upstream - either side will do - following the signs to Watersmeet.

Even when the river is relatively low, the sound of water cascading over the rocks can rule out conversation, and you can't help but imagine the terror of local people caught in the flood disaster of 15 August,

On that night the river, swollen by 20 it after a downpour on Exmoor, hurtled tenton boulders down the valley, destroying houses and cars and killing 34 people. Since then the town has repaired the physical damage and established impressive flood defences, but the memory of the disaster is still vivid in this small community.

bank is another fragment of history. Look out for a spring flowing from the rock which was once the source of water for the old Lynrock Mineral Water Factory. The re-

mains of a stoneware Lynrock bottle are from here to the Sandpiper Inn on the A39. embedded in the rock, but today you can cup your hands and simply help yourself

You should be well warmed up by the Watersmeet House. This was once a Vicwaterfalls where the East Lyn river meets suddenly very airy. the Hoar Oak river.

If the weather is good you can sit outside under a huge Monterey pine, brought back from California by an enthusiastic Victorian botanist. The National Trust runs the haze beyond Lynmouth, is Hangman Point, shop and cafe here (open until the end of the highest cliff in Britain. The coast path body-surfing.

Not many walks have everything - wood- October) and the home-made rock buns and apple pies are virtually irresistible.

Having refuelled, take the path that starts behind Watersmeet House and climbs steeply northwards up the ravine, signposted to Countisbury. This bit is quite a slog, but it takes you through lovely stunted oak woods which have barely changed since neolithic times.

The path comes out on Trilly Ridge, beside a crater-like earth and bank structure. This was either an Iron Age settlement or a Roman villa: until it's excavated, local historians can't agree.

From here you have a wonderful view back down the thickly wooded river valley. Lynmouth is invisible, tucked away in the ravine, but you can see some of its cliff-top sister town, Lynton, sparkling against its Exmoor backdrop. Opposite and to the right of the valley is Wind Hill, a linear Iron Age earthworks, as well as South Myrtleberry About a mile upriver on the right-hand and North Myrtleberry, two more Iron Age

Take a left fork, signposted Winston's Path, and you will soon have your first view of the sea. It's a short hike across heathery heathland

posing you with a dilemma. Is it too soon after those rock cakes to eat and drink again or perhaps not?

Whatever you decide, it's as well to stay time you've covered the next mile to sober for the next leg, because once you have crossed the A39, passed the delighttorian fishing lodge in the most romantic ful little church of St John (always open for of settings, on a lawn below a series of shelter or meditation), this walk becomes

Turn left on to the coast path towards Lynmouth and you turn your back on Countisbury Hill, which plunges into the sea at Foreland Point. Ahead of you, in the

to Lynmouth is wide and well trodden, but it takes a bit more nerve, not to mention muscle, to negotiate the steep zig-zag down to Sillery Sands. The last 20ft of the cliff is made passable only by some new wooden steps; the last ones - and the ones before - were washed away by the high waves that regularly pound this coast.

It's worth the climb, though. This is an isolated beach mainly of pebbles and boulders, but at low tide the waves break on to a stretch of yellow sand that's perfect for

Don't risk swimming out, however, because the current in this bay can be treacherous, and don't be tempted to walk along the shore to Lynmouth, either. This route is passable for only about 10 minutes at low tide; more often than not, rescues from this stretch of coast involve walkers who have been backed up to the unforgiving cliffs by

If you are lucky, you will see a kestrel, hanging motionless in the air currents, on the way back up. If you are even luckier, you will spot a peregrine falcon there. And

from now on it's a gentle amble back down to Lynmouth, where teashops full of the bucket-and-spade brigade will help you to feel smug about what a walk they have free.

FACTFILE Where to park: Take a couple of pound coins with you, and you can leave your car ali day at the pay-and-display Lyndale car

park, beside the town bridge. Poignant photographs and press cuttings

of the Lynmouth flood disaster are on display at the Memorial Hall in the middle of the town. Admission to the exhibition is helds of e

The water-powered cliff railway to Lynton shuttles up and down from Lynmouth at roughly five-minute intervals. The fare is 50p each way.

The Exmoor National Park Visitors' Centre is on the waterfront at Lynmouth, it carries a full range of maps and information, as well as a sister of the historic lifeboat, the Louise.



Learning at a snail's pace why it is that children get so lucky

Never play a child at a game where chance William Hartston. They are just too lucky.

I first discovered the Principle of Infantile Aleatoric Advantage when playing Snails with Nicholas, aged five. The rules are simple: you go into the garden and select two snails (or more if you wish to play with more than two players) which are then placed on the outermost wooden slat of the garden table. Each player in turn then rolls a die. If a "1" shows, the player may move his snail one

lazy afternoon, one may play with two dice, only moving the snail when a double-one is rolled.) The first snail to reach

the centre of the table wins. Now our garden table has eight steps before you reach the centre and Nicholas's snail was up to the seventh before mine even started. By that time I did throw a "1", the snail had exuded so much slime that it was quite a feat to unstick it from the table and slide it a square forwards. Then my young opponent threw another "1" and

the game was over. in the next game he beat me

slat forwards. If any other num- 8-1. I scored a thrilling win, by Nicholas was single-mindedly cards representing Oil, Gold, score of 31-12, far above anything predicted by the laws of probability.

It's not just with snails. He regularly beats me at any card game of pure chance too. I suspect this is why they ban children from casinos. It's not because they are considered too young to fritter their money away. It's just that they are so Last Saturday we played

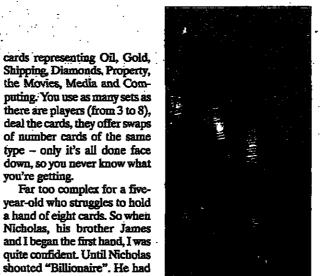
Monopoly which I know is predominantly a game of skill. I did everything right: I bought up the light blue set and the Marlborough Street set. Meanwhile,

ber is rolled, the snail stays 8-7, in game three, but his 8-3 buying up and developing the Shipping, Diamonds, Property, ever wins with the green set. Unless, of course, the principle of Infantile Aleatoric Advantage comes into operation, guiding the five-year-old unfailingly to all the Chance and Community Chest cards that offer financial reward, while dumping all the "Income Tax Pay £100" type of penalties on the hapless opponent. A copy of Billionaire had arrived the previous day from Spear's Games. It's a sort

penalty card. There are eight

you're getting. Far too complex for a fiveyear-old who struggles to hold a hand of eight cards. So when Nicholas, his brother James and I began the first hand, I was quite confident. Until Nicholas shouted "Billionaire". He had of dysfunctional Happy Famieight Diamonds. It's no good. lies, with players trading cards I'm going toteach him chess. in an attempt to get a full set of commodities while avoiding the

Billionaire, from Spear's Games, retails at about £10.



Kids' stuff at a snail's pace

PANDORA MELLY

Malcolm Bradbury, 65, writer and emerities professor of American Studies at the University of East Anglia, recalls his exploits as 12th man in the school team.

Exmoor, North Devon

When I was young I had a beart condition, so I wasn't able to play any games. Instead I spent most of my time in the school library. In the end, I was allowed to join the school cricket eleven as 12th man, and I did manage to play the odd game - when somebody twisted an ankle, or didn't turn up. I even won a couple of matches. I was always in last, so I had a chance to finish off the game. My heart condition was cured by an operation when I was 27, but by that time I had settled down

to having no interest in sports at all. Chess is still my favourite. I like the kind of game where you have to use your intelligence, either alone or against an opponent. Obviously, chess requires intellect rather than physical skill, and you can play it with another person, or against yourself.

There's definitely a game-like quality to writing fiction: you're often trying to work your way through a labyrinth of detail, so you'll probably be interested in word games.

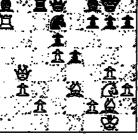
CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

When Garry Kasparov played the entire Argentine team in a simultaneous display last week, he lost only one game, winning six and drawing five. The match comprised two rounds, in each of which he played six opponents under normal conditions - except for the fact that his clock could well be running on all six boards at the same time.

Indeed, his opponents might have done better had they practised some synchronised moving beforehand, instead, they took it all rather too seriously, made their moves when they were ready, and let Kasparov glide easily from board to board.

His only loss, however, did show some of the strains this type of play can create. Hugo Spangenberg, playing White, found just the right formula. What is needed is a sound vet complex strategy, unusual enough to force Kasparov to take difficult decisions over the board rather than relying on his repertoire of routine that covers almost any position he is likely to encounter.

In this game, the unusual 6.g3 line against the Najdorf Sicilian did the trick. Black's 14...Re8 (to leave f8 free for the hishop), followed by a5, Ba6 and Qb8 all looked natural enough, but after 19.b3 he was suddenly in trouble. White threatens to surround the b-pawn with



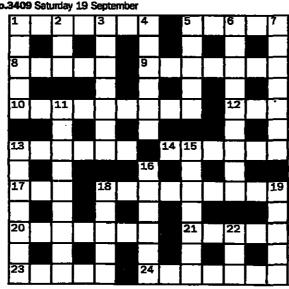
Qd2 and Ra4, and could even, if necessary, consider lining up the bishop on d2 and queen on el. Kasparov could find no satisfactory counterplay and resigned when the b-pawn fell.

In the final position (see diagram) 28...Rxc2 loses to 29.Qa4 Nb6 30.Qa5, while other moves condemn Black to a slow death as White plays c4 and slowly advances the Q-side pawns. With five other games to think about, Kasparov decided it was not worth continuing.

White: Hugo Spangenberg Black: Garry Kasparov

Sicilian	defence
1 e4 c5	15 a3 a5
2 N£3 d6	16 Be3 Ba6
3 d4 cxd4	17 Rel Ob8
4 Nxd4 Nf6	18 axb4 axb4
5 Nc3 a6	19 b3 Rc8
6 g3 e5	20 Od2 Nc5
7 Nde2 Be7	21 Ra2 Bb7
8 Bg2 b5	22 Real Rxa
9 0-0 Bb7	23 Rxa2 Ba8
10 h3 Nbd7	24 Ne4 Nd7
1 g4 b4	25 Ra4 Oc7
	-
12 Nd5 Nxd5	26 Ra7 Qd8
L3 exd5 0-0	27 Ng3 Bf8
4 Ng3 Re8	28 Qxb4 1-0

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Spun round rapidly (7) Ships' companies (5) Stupidity (5) Wild duck (7) 10 Just (9) Anger (3) Wooden hammer (6) 14 Gives utterance (6) 17 Primate (3) 18 Invaluable (9) 20 Inactive (7) 21 Asian country (5) 23 Wild West show (5) 24 Information (3-4)

DOWN

Thin biscuit (5) Unwell (3) Set of baby clothes (7) Fruit (6) Minor ailments (5) Root out (9) 7 Unhappiness (7) 11 Plant with yellow flowers

(9) 13 Wind sinuously (7) 15 Advance showing (7) 16 Handgun (6) 18 Greek philosopher (5) 19 Generate (5) 22 Twosome (3)

The magazine crossword will be back in its normal form next week. Apologies for its absence today

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

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\Q A	AQ32
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	A K

Love all: dealer South

Reprints come and reprints go, but one of the most welcome is The Expert Game (Robert Hale, £9.99). The original, of course, was written by the late Terence Reese, first published in 1958 and long regarded as a classic. After nearly 40 years all-round technique has improved and Barry Rigal has done a fine job in updating the original and

Take this deal, featuring the the East seat. The bidding by North-South was both descriptive

adding new material. American star Gail Greenberg in

Perplexity

and accurate when they stopped in Six Spades after having made it clear that they held all of the outside controls and had only stopped short of the grand slam because of the weakness in the trump suit.

West led a low heart against the slam and South's natural play would have been, after winning on the table, to lead and run \$J. It would not matter if this lost, for now the solitary remaining trump would fall under the ace and in this way declarer would cater for the possibility of East

holding all three missing trumps. Greenberg created a diversion. Diagnosing the situation accurately, she dropped ♥Q under the ace! It was just enough to sow a seed of doubt in declarer's mind; was it possible that ♥Q was a singleton and that a trump finesse, losing to a lone honour, would allow East to ruff the next heart lead?

Perhaps South's play does not stand up to close analysis, but she fell into Greenberg's trap and, when ◆J from dummy brought the four from East, she went up with the ace, (hoping for a 2-1 break in the suit) and so ended by losing two trump tricks.

For amusement only: Can you arrange the numbers 1 to 14 in a circle so that the sum of any two adjacent numbers equals the sum of the two numbers opposite them? In other words, if the order round the circle is a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, then

a+b=h+i; and b+c=i+j; and c+d=j+k, all the way round to n+a=g+h.

No prizes for this one. The answer will appear next week, together with the name of the winner of last week's Perplexity competition.

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

- > -

Sum. $c_{4,\mathrm{Rep}_{1,\mathrm{lock}}}$ λp.

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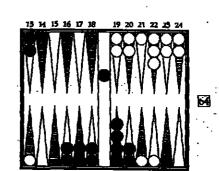
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Here's a difficult problem which many players would get wrong over the board. In fact many players would get the wrong answer to both halves of the question: should Black double; should White take?

Let's look at the double first. On the downside, Black is on the bar facing a 5-point board. Otherwise his position is excellent: he has a five-point prime blockading two of White's men, one of which is not even at the edge of the prime, and there is another White blot on the mid-point which is vulnerable to attack. All he has to do to realise the potential of his position is to enter from the bar. Even if he doesn't come in this roll, White's position will self-destruct if he doesn't roll a six soon. For example, look at the effect of White rolling 55. This is a very volatile position, and Black may well miss his market if he doesn't double now. He should do so.

How about the take? White has four blots, two of which are stuck behind Black's 5-point prime, Many players would see the loss of a garmmon as imminent and drop in an instant. However, White has two things in his favour: he has a 5-point home board, and he leads in the race by 97-133. Never forget that backgammon is essentially a race and if White can free his back men he will win not only the race, but also a high percentage of gammons, Finally, White will have

some very powerful redoubles after certain sequences. In practice, many players wouldn't double as Black. preferring to enter from the bar first; and those same ... players would drop as White, fearing a gammon loss. You simply cannot play winning backgammon with attitudes such as this; you must be prepared to speculate to accumulate.



Fields of dreams for mini players



In the first of a series looking at outdoor pursuits, Tom Chesshyre reports on the increasingly popular sport of mini-rugby for children. With professional clubs in search of home-grown talent to replace expensive players, who knows, this could be the way ahead.

It's a sun-drenched Sunday morning at Rosslyn Park Football Club in south-west London, and 150 players in red-andwhite-hooped shirts are scampering about after rughy balls. "Deck 'im," booms a man with a whistle, "Come on, put 'im down that's it, well done son. Lovely tackle!"

It's the first weekend of the new minirugby league season and Rosslyn Park's first feel of a rugby ball since April. The play is tentative - for some of the youngest players it is their first-ever go at rugby but every now and again a ball flashes down a line of players and a speedy winger dashes down the touch line and dives to score a try. Applause ripples out from the proud parents in the stands.

Mini-rugby has grown massively in popularity over the last decade and is now played at hundreds of clubs up and down the country - the Rugby Football Union (RFU), which organises the sport in Britain, estimates that there are now four times as many clubs as there were 10 years ago, playing from September to April. Teams of boys or girls are divided into age groups starting at under-seven-year-olds up to under-12-yearolds; after the age of 12 youngsters graduate to the grown-up game.

We estimate that there are probably 8.000 mini-rugby teams in Britain," says Alan Black, RFU promotions officer, "The sinlarity has been the higher profile of rugby at the national level. When events such as the 1995 World Cup are shown on television, and the teams do well, it puts rugby into the eves of voungsters who will want to emulate the stars."

The rules of mini-rugby are broken down into different age groups. The youngest players make two-handed "touch" tackles and can pass the ball forwards or backwards. The under-nine-year-old age group can start proper tackling, and must pass the ball backwards only. The under-10s are introduced to kicking the ball. Technical skills such as line-outs and scrums are brought in later. The size of the pitch also increases with age; from 20m by 30m for under-sevens to 43m by 59m for under-12s.

"The point is to have a gradual introduction," says Black, "You can't have seven-year-olds playing the same game as Will Carling - it's far too complicated."

Most mini-rugby teams are organised by local rugby clubs; with senior sides playing in national leagues. Increasingly, following the advent of professional rugby union, clubs look to their mini-rugby sides as a vital source of home-grown talent, since no expensive transfer fees need be paid.

There is, however, some controversy about this because a few major clubs, including Harlequins and Saracens, have not developed well-organised mini-rugby structures, preferring to recruit players from other clubs at age 19 or so when their potential is more evident. Smaller clubs feel angry that 2 players are being "pinched".

Hundreds of mini-rugby tournaments are organised throughout the season, but there is not a national knock-out competition. Most counties have an annual tournament Rosslyn Park plays in the Surrey Cup. Mini-rugby organisers tend to be wary of entering teams in too many competitions. Bob Fisher, in charge of Rosslyn Park's mini-rugby squads, says: "We don't believe in the ethos of 'win at at costs'. We're not trying to headbang kids into becoming tough players. A few tournaments are good because kids enjoy them and they get medals and certificates. What we try to avoid is building up such a competitive edge that kids - and parents become upset when a team loses. And we teach kids to obey all the rules; we stamp down on anyone who tries to cheat by throwing in little niggles in scrums. There are rarely injuries - the worst is usually a twisted ankle."

At most state schools rugby is not taught juniors, aged five to 12, are getting their until children are 11 years old, which means that mini-rugby at clubs may be their first taste of the game. Private schools tend to start earlier - usually at around nine years old. "If it weren't for mini-rugby at club level, many kids would never get a chance to learn the game," says the RFU's Black, "We are having to fill a void left by the deterioration of rugby in state schools."

So what do youngsters themselves have to say about mini-rugby? At Rosslyn Park, David Miller, aged eight, said: "It's taught very well - you don't spend ages learning complicated rules till you're older. We have lots of mini-games amongst ourselves. This year, we're just learning to tackle for the first time, which is great fun." His friend Joseph Crehan, also aged eight, agreed: "It's brilliant. We won four tournaments last year and I scored a lot of tries. My favourite player is Jeremy Guscott and my dream is to play for England one day."

Joseph's father, Dominic Crehan standing dutifully at the touch line - said: me love to watch their games and several of us like to go for a pint together after the kids have been playing. It's a very sociable sport and I've made some good friends."

At this point he broke off, as son Joseph dashed along the wing and scored a try. "Well done, Joseph!" he boomed. "Nice try. That's the stuff. Keep it up, son. You're do-

Mini-rugby for girls

Girls play alongside boys until the age of 12. After then, many clubs have their own girls' teams, although most drop out at 12 to play netball and hockey. Girls often develop faster than boys, so are at no disadvantage in terms of size when it comes to tackling and

Increasing numbers of girls are getting involved in mini-rugby and there is now a well-developed national women's league with two divisions for those who want to take the game further; Richmond, Saracens, Wasps, Cardiff and Leeds all have squads. Most girls who progress to the highest level usually do so by playing for a school team - more common among private schools - and then continning the game at university.

Rosslyn Park has just started its first women's side. Bob Fisher, who organises the mini-rugby teams, said: "Tve found that playing rugby is a way of building up confidence in girls. By playing rugby with boys they learn to feel that they should be included in everything. It's very important that they get that feeling of being involved.

"It's much rarer for girls from state

schools to start playing mini-rugby. Not only is rugby not played in most state schools up to the age of 11, but they have the traditional pressures to get involved with 'girly' things such as ballet. It would be great if more girls could get involved; mini-rugby is nothing like the tough game you see at international matches on television."

Out of 150 players practising at Rosslyn Park on a typical Sunday, about a dozen are girls. Most get involved because their brothers are playing. Clare Douglas, aged eight, did not look at all out of place tackling boys her age in a practice game - several times, her interventions prevented probable tries being scored. She said: "I started playing along with my brother and enjoyed it a lot.

Most of my friends don't play because they think it's a boys' game - they go swimming or play tennis instead. I don't find that being a girl is a disadvantage - I've scored lots of tries in tournaments that have helped to win games."

Hannah Fisher, aged 10, who plays in the Rossiyn Park under-10 team, added: "It's annoying that people think girls should only do ballet and stuff like that. Rugby is not that rough." However, Hannah admitted that she will

probably give up the sport at 12: "I think I'll probably stop because it might get a little bit harder to play alongside the boys."

David Starling, head of Rosslyn Park's

got a girls team after mini-rugby stops at 12. Maybe it's something we could introduce in the future as a link to the women's team, but at the moment there just isn't enough interest, I'm afraid."

How to get involved

The best way to find out about your nearest mini-rugby league is to look up your Rugby Football Union regional office in the local telephone book, or call the RFU's national Youth Development Officer on 01484 866363 for details of clubs with mini-rughy teams in your area.

Most clubs require players to sign up and there is usually an annual registration fee each age group, and a video, The Coaching vouth teams aged 12-19, said, "We haven't of around £30, which goes towards renting Guide to Mini-Rugby.

local authority pitches. This registration fee also usually covers medical insurance, in the unlikely event of serious injury.

Mini-rugby leagues tend to be on the constant look out for parent volunteers - vital for keeping up squads as well as ferrying children to game; contact your local club if you're interested in helping out.

The rules of mini-rugby are available from the RFU (0181-891 4141). Most of the rules - which set out what children should be taught at certain ages - are included in The Laws of the Game in a section called "The Continuum". There are also helpful guides to mini-rugby - with details of pitches for



From sad, scribbling wannabe to best-selling star: would a weekend do it?

It's said that everyone has a novel in them, but getting it out into publishable form is quite another matter. Those bold enough to try uncarthing theirs can turn to the growing number of residential creative writing courses, which tackle not just novels, but every offshoot you care to think of - poetry, biography, journalism, children's fiction, plays, television

and radio scripts. Tony Rees, a retired civil servant, recently attended a four-day biography course at the Arvon Foundation in Yorkshire. Along with two tutors and 15 other students, he covered such basics as dealing with research, handling sensitive issues, and finding a writing voice, "It was very intense," he admits, "I didn't understand why it was only four days until I went. I slept only a few hours a night; there was so much adrenaline going, and I was so busy writing."

So what exactly did he get out of it? Basically, it gave me a kick up the arse

to get going," he says, "It undid a block and gave me the confidence to start on the biography I've been planning for a

Unfortunately, creative writing courses tend to conjure up dire images of sad literary wannabes led by those who've already failed to make a real living out of writing. Tony Rees's fellow students. however, included a number of published biographers, novelists and journalists. And there is no disputing the quality of Arvon's tutors; this year its students will receive pearls of creative wisdom from such well-known names as Roger McGough, Hermione Lee, Alison Lurie, Rachel Cusk and Simon Nye.

Sue Teddern, who writes comedy for television and radio, recently taught a course on sitcom writing for Arvon. Ten years ago, as an established journalist, she attended similar courses on televi-

sion and comedy-writing herself. "I arrived thinking I wanted to write comedy, and left really motivated and determined, taking myself a lot more seriously. The tutors swept away a lot of myths from it all, and a couple of lessons, such as not writing in stereotypes, have stuck with me for life."

EMMA HAUGHTON

But Teddern finds that different penple come to her courses - which cover areas such as character, structure, and the practicalities of submitting work for different reasons. One or two just like the idea of writing, others are new to comedy and want to find out if they have got what it takes, and perhaps three or four will be deadly serious and

have real drive. "Some will come away thinking it's not for them; a few will discover this is what they are born to do."

So does she think people can really be taught to write? You can certainly acquire some tried-and-tested tips, she believes: "I've picked up good ones from workshops myself. You can teach people techniques such as how to map out an episode or structure a typical sitcom, but what you can't give them is that spark that makes stuff special, the magic that makes it all work."

Those lucky enough to have the spark may find that a writing course gives them the impetus to seek publication. Martin Booth, biographer and author of 11 novels, recalls the novelist Lisa St Aubin de Teran turning up to one of his courses with the manuscript for Keepers of the House. "I remember looking at it and thinking that it was absolutely fantastic," he says. "In fact, I helped her to get an

Inevitably, however, others arrive with quite unrealistic expectations of their own talent and chances of success. Students can range from the gruesome to the fabulous, says Booth; as in any teaching situation you can end up with class 1A or 7D.

"Some think a course is like medical school, and they will get an internship when they finish. But you don't necessarily stand a better chance of becoming a published writer, there are too many variables involved."

Not least of which is talent, and Booth has had, on occasions, to break painful news.

"You have to be honest with people," he insists. "If you go to the doctor, you want to be told the truth. I'm also there as a consultant: if you've got a severe illness, I'll tell you so and offer you the treatment that may cure you. But if the disease is too far gone, you deserve to

Becoming the next Tolstov The Arvon Foundation (01409 231338) runs courses in Devon, Yorkshire and Scotland. Cost: £290 for four/five days. Forthcoming subjects: novels, poetry, short fiction, starting to write, and writing for television. Grants are available. The Old Rectory, Fittleworth, West Sussex (01798 865306) Cost: £114 to £385 per course. Forthcoming subjects: short stories, freelance writing, travel writing and biographies.

Missenden Abbey, Bucks (01494 890295/6) Cost: £50-£140 per weekend. Forthcoming subjects: writing for television, poetry, imaginative fiction, magazine articles, historical fiction. ● Beistead House, Ipswich, Suffolk

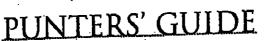
(01473 686321) Cost: £95 residential, £75 non-residential. Forthcoming subject: memoir writing.

HYPERION

<u>AYR</u>

FORM GUIDE shis first handcap attempt but his m

1.55 Corniche 2.25 Ledgendry Line 3.05 Mister Joison 3.35 Weet-A-Minute 4.15 Blessingindisguise 4.45 Sue's Return 5.15 CUMBRIAN CADET (nap)		Amin and company at York test time. This would have been the target all stong for Double Action after the dents win in the race seven years ago and his relemines gallop will have most of these at his stretch early. Oggi has come up trumps with a high daxe, as has Plaint of Amour and Jack Berry's Tay his listed Parises. Oggi also has his ground and his trinst third to Fiffili at Goodwood shows him to be as good as ever. The ground was also fester than he likes when he filled fifth in the Stewards' Cup and this surface.	2.98: BIN ROSIE, who beat Open Credit by threequarters of a length in a 7f stakes race at Chepstow last time, stays a mile and can follow TV T
GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places). STALLS: Straight course - stands adds; remainder - outside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None. Left-hand geloping course.	1998: Certain Gift 5 8 12 T G McLeughin 10-1 Q Listmoden) drawn (27) 28 rat. PORM GUEDE PERRYSTON VIEW, drawn one off the stands side rail, can win this on the evidence of his early-season Newmarket win from Sir Joey and Slute Gobin. Peter Calver fits a visor him for the first time this year and Penryston View shaped pretty well with today's partner Keylin Derley in Plateir d'Amour's race at York last time. A win by Return Of Amin (drawn	will staw down a lot of the opposition. Paiser d'Amour was very game in going through a gap to best Tiler and Blessinghologuise at York last time. She has a fine chance from the chaw with her seven-furiony stamina. The booking of Jaminy Fortune for Bill Watts' Madily Sharp is of some note, especially with the getting going in his first-time bit-less. Technique stables since finishing in the ruck last year, He has not two sim-	up. Estefully looks th danger. GCC 230: ARKADIAN HERO, who beat SON apple he sached
© Course is east of form on A758. Ayr rail station (service from Glasgow) Tr. ADMISSION: Cub £20; Grandstand £10. CAR PARK; Free. LEADING TRAINERS: M Johnston – 21 winners from 147 runners (14.3%), B Hets 20-59 (33.9%), A Balley 19-108 (16.7%), Mrs M Reveiley 18-96 (16.7%). LEADING JOCKETS: K Darley – 37 wins; from 178 rides (20.9%), J Weever 28-148 (18.9%), J Fallon 19-134 (12.4%), D Holland 16-57 (28.3%).	18) will boost Double Action's chance in the main event. Beatan eight lengths into second by the Essatety hone at York, Return Of Amin has always wanted cut in the ground. There must also be some hope for Mr Bergerax, well drawn in stall 24 and second to Coastal But in the Gold Cup 12 mointne ago, Double Oscar, who came lete to beat Tiler at Carlsie last month, was a good sidh with an apprentice to Withwood Flower of Good-	har races against the classy Royal Applause this year, but a big weight may best him. King Of Perti is handlespool by a middle draw, but help in binlicers for the first time at- ter some decont efforts and help 46 bester for the short head he was behind Ogg/ in the Sewester Out. The ground may not be fest enough for Energing Market, while a 76- penalty sets last Saunday's Goodwood witner Wildwood Flower a last.	subsequent Flying Childer's States winner Land Of Dreams by 2½ lengths at Ripon last time, looks a length at Ripon last time, l
● PAVOURITES: 122 wins in 351 facts (33.7%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Persuasive Talent (145); King Of Peru, Zuhair, Albert The Bear & Madily Sharp HAS; Sulvaz & La Traca Cartiste (\$15); Regal Thunder (visored, 445). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Wildwood Flower (Ayr 415) wan at Goodwood on	wood lest Saturday. Back with Alax Greeves and from a good draw (25) Double Oscar less sleeding chance. Soviet Leader diseponted in the same sprint leat Saturday. There was money for him on the strength of his Newmarket third to Danesime, and he could threaten them all from stall one.	Selection: DOUBLE ACTION 4.45 LADBROKES AYRSHIRE HANDICAP (CLASS C) 225,000 added 1 m 1 -0021 KENNEMARA STAR (16) (D) (Miniflower Oversess) J Durlep 39 ft K Durley 187	threat.
Searchy 1.55 E.B.F. TULIP COMPUTERS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2YO 1m 65 ARCANE STAR (2) (8 T G Partnership) A. Jarvis 9 0	3.35 FAUCETS FOR PEMBREY IN WALES DOONSIDE C4 1 -4421 WINTER ROMANCE (16) (Maiotoum Al Maideure) E Dunko 4 8 1	2 DESIGN MCVINIG ARROW (7) (0) (6) W Westgarth Mex S Hall 69 10	ina in a competitive handicap over Im 2f at Sandown last time, can go one better. Game Ploy is the danger.
2 CORNICHE (H.R.H. Privos Pairis Saltorer) P. Cole 9.0	4 61221 SANDMOOR CHAMBERAY (19) Sandmoor Sedies Co) T Easterby 6 8 11 J Wester 1 93 6 40202 STAR SELECTION (21) 6 M Michigan J Medicie 6 8 11 J J Calenn 2 102 6 4-242 19:EE-F-AMINUTE (16) (Ed Westman) H Hollharband 4 5 11 K Darloy 3 711 7 1444 G HADRAS (28) (0) (Hendan Al Makkount J Durlop 3 84 R Hiller 7 111 8 193 REVER LUSK (15) (K Abdalah) H Cod 3 8 4 W Ryan 4 100	6 Onth SAFIO (3) (C) (Ats M A Cinyton) A Balley 4 9 5	3.30: DEBUTANTE DAYS, who beat Elbashs by a neck in a 1m 3/ shipped his jockey at 183 wis handicap at Leicester last his last run, but must be
7 DO TORSO (89) (Lord Sweything) J W Wests 9 D. J Fortune 1 8 SS EXHIFT PRINCESS (17) Adelstorm A Melatoruni M Johnston 8 9 D Hollend 8 9 6 FEAR NOT (17) (De-Fard Racing Cub) M Bell 6 9 M. Fenton 5 LADY RACINEL, (Since MecChangl) J L. Gyre 8 8 M. Gallacher 4 0 PTCHAMARK (105) G A Scotleng E Weynes 8 9 M. Gullan 17	BETTING: 3-1 Wheter Romance, 7-2 Sandanoor Chambries, 9-2 Weet A-Minste, River Usis, 5-1 Ghatasa, 8-1 Sacho, 25-1 Night City, 33-1 Sher Selection. 1996: Key To My Heart 6 8 11 J Wesser 6-1 for (Alian S Hell) drawn (8) 7 ran FORM GUIDE	10 30200 PRIDE OF PENDLE (7) (CD) Bits Linda Miler) M Wisne 8 9 4 J Wester 12.91 11 1-6033 TEST THE WATER (02) (J S Threadwell) R Herrorn 3 8 3 J Dane Of Well 3 9 4 12 1806 BEST OF ALL (02) (D) Probert Aird J Berry 5 9 1 R Cockesse 13 8 69 13 02035 SOMESTION BOY (28) (CD) (Mrs Jans MacPharson) P Caiver 7 8 11 J Commil 6 82 14 0-0005 CELEBRATION CAKE (03) (C) (Lightbody of Herritori) Miss L Penal 5 8 1	time, remains on a fair mark. Darapour is the chief threat. AYR
2 50 PLEASANT DREAMS (88) (Jin Glad) D Smith 89	One-time Derby hope Sectio won in fine style on his return in a Leicester melden, but this is a much sterner test with Sendmoor Chembray taking them along at a good clip. Sandmoor Chembrary is trying a longer trip and may be found wanting outside of handicap class. His lesset win at Epsorm was greatly boosted when the second, Denish Rhapsody, won with 10st at Goodwood next time, and the thirt, River Usit, will be fugner to	5 22660 BOLLIN FRANK (7) (D) (5r Nell Weethood) T Evelety 5 8 10	3.05: The effect of the draw is extremely difficult to predict. Low win a big prize after members had a stight edge in a sprint here on Thursday and if that icaps.
2.25	best this time with that needed run under his beit. River Lak gate a 5th pull for the tive- length beating and the greater emphasis on estemine soldsy will also suit him. Whater Ro- mance will love the ground and help another over a new trip after his York win from Weet-A-Minute, for which treb premised 4th. Strictly on the book, Weet-A-Minute is weight- ed to average that marrow delect. GHATAAS could be the one to outstay them at. He	-8 50545 ROYAL CELIDH (94) (D) (im Bini) D Smith 488 PFessey (3) 18 V 75 19 -03005 REGAL THUNDER (USA) (11) (P D Swit) M Stoute 3 87 J Online 2 V 83 20 52305 RUMMING GREEN (19) (CD) (Ib-Hard Racing Club) D Mortast 6 8 7	EFFECT OF THE DRAW IN THE AYR GO
3 SIGGUZ: URGENT SWEFT (26) (A. I. Morton) A. Javva 4.9 S	hearth fixed up to center expectations (he was entered for the Derby), but hell go in the ground, he won in good style at Labositer in June and faced a very stiff task at Windoor lest time when last of four to Amus Mirabilis. Selection: GHATAAS 4.15 LADBROKE AYR GOLD CUP (HANDICAP) C4	BETTING: 9-2 Knowmers Star, 7-1 Safe, 8-7 Text The Water, 10-1 Phillipter, 12-1 Moving Arrow, Solar Storm, Sur's Return, Bollin Frank, 14-1 others 1993; Price Of Pendia 7 6 5 Alex Grasses 6-1 (D Nicrolla) drawn (2) 16 mm FORM GRUDE. Five of these were engaged, here yesterday – an interesting one being Rebel County,	Year 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Runners 1996 28/27 29/25 27/22 25/5 28/28 G 1995 27/25 20/22 28/26 26/23 29/28
8 20x406 LEDGENGRY LINE (21)(C) (Home & Away Partnern) Mrs. M Reveloy 4 8 AC California (1) 9 07248 STACKS GASHIOS BOY (47) (197) Statistic Science) M Johnston 3 6 6 J Winever 9 89 19 52050 NOLIFIARI (FFQ (28) (CD) (Ed Westman) R Hollmahand 6 8 6 8 6 A Marcian 14 67 6 8 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	1 12665 TEDBURROW (15) (C) (D) (TSip Darles) E Alaton 5 9 10	who is visored today but not yesterday over a longer trip. She won at this fixture last year and Jimmy Fortune is an interesting booking. Cambridgeshire hope Kannenman Star is the type to keep improving after his telest win with Sat 12to at Pomerican but this is a stiffer task. Regail Thursder (engaged in 7 race yesterday) was seven lengths behind the Dunkop house at Pomerican and a 9to pull doesn't look enough. But the runner they	1994 29/8 15/5 16/13 8/1 29/27 G 1993 8/10 17/12 9/3 2/6 29/28 G 1992 28/11 8/14 25/7 3/10 28/29
2 Ooks: GLOSE RUNNERS (23) (5 & P Barrier/Globe Engineering) J J O'Nois 4 7 12 J Ouksa 11 93 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12	5 30400 TADEO (10) [D] (J F Good) M Johnston 4 9 6	all have to contain is SAFIC, who promises to stay a mile in his present top form. He squeezed through to beet a moneter field at Doncester (7f) to notch the four-timer last Seturday and meets Territum (ninth) on only 5th worse terms. Boilin Frank has his right ground at last after some creditable efforts and he was badly drawn at Doncester last Seturday. He will be banging away with the leaders from the cit, while Pride Of Peacille,	1991 18 16 28 12 28 1990 8 1 2 18 29 6 1989 6 5 14 9 29
Albi, Ladgendry Line, Globe Rutene, 12-1 others 1990: Durhern 5 3 S Whitworth 3-1 fav (H Howel drawn (S) 11 ren 3.05 LADBROKE AYR SILVER CUP (HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £15,000 added 6f	10 22350 SELHURSTPARK FLYER (ed) (D) (Chris Destera) J Berry 6 8 8 P Roberts (5) 19 97 11 030801 WILDWOOD FLOWER (7)(D) (G Howard-Spirit) R Harmon 4 9 3 (7ed) Davis Chiles (1) 12 800004 PASSION FOR LIFE (11) (D) (Cheld Waters) G Lawis 4 9 2 Paul Eddien) 11 105 13 600300 ASTRAC (10) (D) (T L Beacost) N Tribler 6 9 1 Kim Timbler 25 89	another who was badly drawn last Saturday, won this race on faster ground last year from Hawkstey Hill, Moving Arrow, a fine fifth to Epic Stand in that Doncaster race, holds every chance with Darryt Holland agein riding. Phillister, second to Neuwest in a hot race at Newmarket, is another strong contender, along with Test The Wafer, who returned to form with a third to Shewm at Sandown.	1987 4 14 17 12 29 G Stall number: Ayr Gold Cup/Silver Cup (started 1
1 S2090 MR BENGERAC (9) (0) (P R John) B Paling 6 9 10 R Halls 24 89 2 3000 SO MITREND (29) (D) (E A Hayward) J M Boodby 7 9 10 W Ryen 15 87 3 20000 WESTCOURT MAGIC (10) (C) (K Hodger) M W Esaletby 4 8 10 (50) — T Lusan 27 92 4 50000 HARD TO RIGHE (44) (CD) (J W Musel) R Hodger 11 9 9 J Cadon 3 89	 140001 DOUBLE ACTION (17) (0) (C H Several T Emissty 8 8 1 (7m)	5.15 FORD SCOTTISH DEALER NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2YO 6f 1 320 HUJOM (28) (Namel Reging Syndromy J Dustop 97	Horses drawn on the stands side (high numbers), includencestal Biuff (1996), Royale Figurine (1995), Dering Destin Lochsong (1992), have fared well in recent runnings of the last two years, that trend has been repeated in the
5 062051 RIJOTS PET (21) (Broadgate Partnership) FI Harmon 3 9 8 (5e)	18 014453 OGGI (20) (D) (Skyline Racing Liti) P Melein 8 8 11	2 155 SURVEZ LA TRÂCE (21) (Cayton Bigley Partnership Ltd) J J O'Neil 9 6L Lowther (5) 1 8 3 1904 VICE PRESIDENTIAL (6) (8F) (F) D Savily T Etherholon 9 6	However, a low draw had the call from 1987 to 1990. The good to soft at best in those four years, but the aforement from a high draw came on ground ranging from soft to g
9 000090 SAMMAR (7) (D) (Magain Ltd) M Charmon 5 9 7	23 20133) E.F.LAND (5) (The High Rying Partnership) Lady Hercies 58.9	8 05250 PREMIUM PURSUIT (7) (i) \$1 C Persons) R Fahry 8 1	AYR GOLD CUP HANDICAP - 10-YEAR-T/
5 34056 SUWET LEADER (7) (5) (Matthews Breeding & Racing) R. Guest 3.9.5 D Holland 1.85 45382 TLER (24) (CD) (BF) (Mrs. C Robinson) M. Johnston 5.9.5 J. Wiessen 12.9.7 25500 DAAWE (LISA) (8) (C) (D) (Mrs. A M. Matthroy) J. Glover 8.9.3 Dane O'Reill 8.9.8 105404 SILCA (KEY SILCA (16) (CD) (Tim Corby) M. Chernon 3.9.3 A Mactary 21.84 50044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs (G) Wangs 5.9.1 Peut Bibbary 25.96 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs (G) Wangs 5.9.1 Peut Bibbary 25.96 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs (G) Wangs 5.9.1 Peut Bibbary 25.96 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 5.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 5.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 5.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 5.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 5.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 5.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 5.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 5.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 6.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 6.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 6.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 6.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 6.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 6.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 A Mrs. Corp. Robinson 20044 BILIS (25) (D) (BF) (R) Wangs 6.9.1 Nichola 4.0.0 Nicho	26 -00000 MADLY SHARP (32) (0) (Lord Sweything J W Watts 688	10 142024 LASHAM (23) (9F) (N A Celegham) N Celeghan 8.0	False of the towardines: 24 22 9 5 17 23 7 1 Wirmen's place to betting: 3 0 0 0 3 2c 2c 1 Starting-pricate: 22-1 33-1 50-1 12-1 14-1 10-1 12-1 18
20 10006 DOUBLE OSCAR (7) (CD) (Piby Recing) D Nichols 4 9 0 Alex Greeves 26 8 95 21 2303 ALWAYS ALIGHT (18) (D) (85) (M Neimes-Coding) K Burler 3 8 13.D Swetsowy (3) 8 77 22 0008-0 SCHARROHORST (15) (D) (M G Machenzie) A Dicken 5 8 12 E Johann 23 81 23 01000 SCHARROHORST (15) (D) (Mass N F Thesign) D Chapman 5 8 12 A Cultum 7 93	Supprist, Waterbook Pristal, 10-1 Specific, General Sprist, Parameter For Law, Technicol Hartre, 25-1 Bold Effort, 22-1 Tadeo, 25-1 Cretain Gib, King Of Perst, Technicol, 33-1 others	BETTING: 9-2 Vice Presidential, 11-2 Handswood, 7-1 Anits At Deem, 8-1 Hujonon, Five of Spacies, 9-1 Lashars, 10-7 Subvex La Tiaco, Pregium Pussult, Combrian Cadet, 12-1 others 1998: Bluer Queen 2 8 4 J Carroll 5-1 (M Champor) drawn (2) 11 mm	Winning weightin: 730 77 80 82 830 90 96 8 Winner's age: 3 5 6 3 3 4 7 3 Profit or lose to £1 status: Fewourites -6500. Second Passourites -6200.
NEWBURY	3.00 COURAGE HANDICAP (CLASS B) £25,000 BBC1	4.00 CROYDON CONSERVATIVE CLUB NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,000 2YO 5f 34yds Penalty Value £4,900	Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3nd in last race: 50% Shortest-priced winners: Coastal Bluff (1995) 3-1 far Langest-priced winner: Joveworth (1995) 50-1 Top trainses: No trainer has won this race more than once in the lest 10 years.
HYPERION 2.00 Bin Rosie 4.00 Exbourne's Wish 2.30 Arkadian Hero 4.30 Sweet Wilhelmina	1 2210- ISSIGNAR (487) (D) (Limm Gam Racing) L Current 4 9 11	1 144024 YORKUES BOY (21) (0) (sits M Bedde) 8 McMahon 8 9	Top Jockey: J Porture - Joseworth (1988), Coassal Bluff (1990) FIRST SHOW
3.00 Grief 5.00 Deep Space 3.30 Debutante Days GOING: Soft. STALLS: Straight course stands side, round course inside.	7 5-554 VAROS (15) (Lucajen Sud; R Aleihusi 4 8 0	6:: 185206 FAST TEMPO (22) (1) (N Milelint) B Paling 83 C Ruther 1 7: 10422 SUPPRISE ANGEL (22) (23) (A gast Moved Permera) M Maggeridge 82 _ M Henry (3) 2 8: 0040 FACILE TIGRE (22) (13) (A gast Moved Permera) M Maggeridge 82 _ M Henry (3) 2 8: 0040 FACILE TIGRE (22) (13) (A gast Moved Permera) M Maggeridge 82 _ M Henry (3) 2 8: 0040 FACILE TIGRE (22) (13) (A gast Moved Permera) B Maggeridge 82 _ M Henry (3) _ Maggeridge 82 _ M Henry (3) _ M Advers 9 9: 543346 EMPERIOR MAHEEM (47) (Mrs. E. Mechan 7 18 D R McCabe 11	Ayr — 3.05 Ayr — 4
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 1m on streight course. Left-hand course. Course is south-east of town near A34. Rail station (service from London, Pacifing-ton) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members 217; Tatismalls 210; Silver Ring 24 (OAPs half price) Accompanied 17-year-olds or under free all enclosures. CAR PARK: Free; Pic-	2 1-044 SOPHOBORE (100) (f. Abdulig B Hills 3 8 7 Mills 1997) (7. Abduling B Hills 3 8 7 Mills 1997) (8 4 105 13 0-5520 SUMER GROOM (20) (3) (SAM Daring Paring R Alexandr 7 8 6	# 8229 NORT'S JOY (4) (2) (Khory) Khory 7 10 Jilantin Dayer 4 -11 declared - BETTING: 11-6 Monie Lamos, 5-1 Extrame's Wish, 7-1 The Boy John, 8-1 Yorkies Boy, Castre Court, Supreme Augal, Ivory's Joy, 10-1 others	Horse C H L T Hose C
nc area № per car plus £4 per person or £5 per car plus £5 per person. ■ LEADING TRAINERS: P Chappie-Hyam — 38 winners from 170 runners gives a success ratio of 224%; J Goaden 38 from 140 (25.7%); R Hammon 29 from 445 (8.5%); J Dunlop 23 from 187 (12.3%). ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: J Rold 57 wins from 307 rides gives a success ratio of 18.6%; L	5 OTB221 ISITOFF (25) (D) (James Brown) S C Williams 4 8 3	1996: Maliatish 8 7 G Feature (5) 11-2 (M Bell) chewn (5) 5 ran 4.30 ROTHMANS ROYALS SERIES SEMI-FINAL (HANDICAP) (CLASS C) \$25,000 1m (round) Penalty Value \$18,075 1. 40305 ALMOND ROCK (21) (CD) (CIT Racing Ltd) J Ference 5 100	Return Of Acris 14-1 12-1 12-1 22-1 Binnainginaligation 14-1 1 Busson 18-1 16-1 18-1 14-1 My Matricky Parkent 12-1 1 Titer 14-1 16-1 12-1 16-1 Shimp Hat 18-1 1-1
Dettori 49 from 236 (208%): Per Eddery 34 from 305 (11.1%): T Quinn 31 from 265 (11.7%). P FAVOURITES: 167 wits in 516 races (32.3%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: (glossiarshire.	1998: Game Ploy 4 6 5 R Cochrane 5-1 (D Heydh Jones) drawn (12) 17 ran FORM GUIDE GRIEF came with a strong late run over this distance at Sandown three weeks ago, tel- ing to catch Cugins by a head in a field of 17. David Etsworth's charge, an Epsom frm 40:	2 03313 APACHE STAR (21) (D) (A E Oppenheimer) G Wagg 3 9 11 M Hills 9 V 400001 SAFRAN (42) (D) (Mar L Brook) D Morte 8 9 5 M Calvert) B R Milman 4 9 0 A Witnibur (3) 18 1 0-230 FAMRU MAN (74) (D) (SP) (Family Man Partnership) J Farshmen 4 8 13 A Calvert 4 2 2530 SHARP SRUFFLE (21) (D) (Ms H F Plendagust) R Harmon 4 8 13 M Henry (3) 1	Windows Magic 141 181 141 151 Peesion For Life 141 1 151 Cross The Border 121 141 201 151 Wildwood Flyer 151 1 Wildwood Flyer 151 1 Wildwood Flyer 151 1 Elleuxi 201 1 Elleuxi 201 1 Emerging Market 201 2
2.00 AMERADA STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added BBC1	scorer the time before, should again account for Edan Heighte and Lomberto, who fin- ished fifth and seventh at the Esher track and are only 2b and 7b better in, respective- ly. The season's leading apprectice, Royston French, who was abound the selection for his last two starts, is again in the saddle. Milgerar was pretty ament last season, his two wins including the Zedand Gold Cup at Redoar but he hasn't been seen since basily harn-	7 3353 MR SPONGE (USA) (21) Final Melton) i Balding 3 8 13	The Gay Fax 201 22-1 20-1 20-1 Canona Heart 25-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 Bold Effort 20-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 Canona Heart 25-1 25-1 25-1 Canona GR 25-1 25-1 25-1 Canona GR 25-1 25-1 Canona GR 25-1 25-1 25-1 Canona GR 25-1 25-1 25-1 Canona
1 306521 BIN ROSTE (26) (C) (II) (Mail: Said) D Loder 5 8 4	pered and injured at Royal Ascot 14 imoraths ago and is on top weight. Gente Ploy, win- ner of the corresponding context 12 moraths ago, has run several good races without him to the season, including last time in fourth of 16 to Amyas at York, where Chem- pagne Prince (no better off) was 13th of 16. Kigren Fallon tales the ride on Genne Ploy and the four-year-old might give Grief most to do. Bell Peradlee, who ran Song Of Pre-	17 062300 ICDATHARY (9) (0) (E Guisden Ales M Paidum) L G Cottel 688	Novint Leader 25-1
BETTING: 10-11 Bin Roste, 2-1 Fearfully, 5-1 Musical Pursak, 12-1 Peartree House, 100-1 Merch Monsieur 1996: Prantom Cuest 3 8 11 Pat Eddary 9-4 fav (H Cecil cham) (7) 7 ran FORMS GUIDE	dom to a neck at over course and distance last time and is only 2b higher here, Heir, runner-up to Labor at Newmarket after winning garnely there, and Ripon scorer lation? are others with good claims. 3.30 TOTE AUTUMN CUP (HANDICAP) (CLASS C) BBC1 520.000 1 m 5f 51 w/s Penalty Value 514.265	16 34014 CTY GAMERLER (TI) (D) (J J May) G Bravery 3 8 0	Main 20-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 Main 25-1
FATEFULLY, who will be taxing her tirst run from Ed Dunlop's yard, accred frur times in 1996 for Seeed bin Suroon's stable, including a couple of Leated prozes at Ascor at the auturn. The US-bred has had only two outings this year, finishing in the ruck on dirt at Nad. Al Sheba in Dubal in April on her first appearance since November and running a creditable third behind Senara at Egosom in June, though she was relegated to fourth follow-	1 6-0355 BEAUCHAMP JADE (21) (E Persen) H Candy 5 10 0	20 900020 ZEFMATT (9) (i)) (ikis M P Perston) M Üster 77 10	Hand 16 Rigure
ng an modernt soon after the start. Getting 9to from main rival 8th Rosie, Fatefully looks good enough to overcome her 106-day absence. Bin Rosie nan Decorated Hero to a langtin in the Hungerford Stakes at Newbury lest month and went one better at Crepstow landage afterwards. Selection: REFULLY DESCRIPTION OF THE STAKES (CROSIC)	3 4(7) DANESMAN (737) (Four Wiles Perbreship) W Mar 4 9 9	1998: Arthu Danis 4 7 10 N Cariste 33-1 (M Hanton-Elist) drawn (5): 55 str. 5.00 EBF HARWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 addied 2 2 YO 61 Pennality Value 23,903 AGANON (Grandous Racing) M Chambon 9 0	So Integrid 25-1 25-1 33-1 33-1 Superior Premium 40-1 40-1 33-1 Albert The Bear 40-1 33-1 Mg/st Fight 40-1 40-1 40-1 40-1 40-1 Antenc 40-
2.30 BONUSPRINT MILL REEF STAKES (GROUP BBC1 2) (CLASS A) £35,000 added 2YO 6f 511 ARKADIAN HERD (26) (0) M Stoorliks J Magrier) L Curren 8 2 K Fation 5 20 2 8351 BENSHA SWING (26) (0) (4) Pescod R Henron 8 12	 006-05 FOUNDRY LANE (17) (0) (A Stemat) size in Revely 6.65	2 ASTROLOGER (C.L.A. Edginlon) W Muir 9 0 W J O'Comor 8 3 BROWNING (Starley J Sharp) Lord Hunington 9 0 Almee Cook (8) 16 4 CARVER DOONE (18) (P.R. Cuden) D Cheppel 8 0 Alletinos 19 5 DEEP SPACE (58) (Michigan N Maldoum) E Dunlop 8 0 K Hallon 14 EPSOM CYCLONE (USA) (Salem Bel Opaldon) 6 189 9 0 MI HIBE 3	Semant 404 33-1 40-1 33-1
4 3225 FLARING ENSER (7) & Schmid-Bodney B Median 8 12	BETTING: 9-2 Derepous, 6-1 Debutante Days, 7-1 Foundry Lace, 8-1 Rainwatch, Jezz King, Russ- lan Rosse, Statetoeno, 10-1 othera 1996: Kutta 4 til 0 R (His 0-1 (F Armstrong) drawn (12) dead heated with Bellyngiandy 4 B 8 S Sendous 13-8 by G Alashurati drawn (6) 12 ran	7 LUCAYAN HISIAN (Lucayen Stud) D Loder 9 0	C-Coat H-William Hit L-Laducies, T-Tale C-Coat H-William Hit L-I
BETTING: 5-4 Artaclino Hero, 9-4 Milana, 6-1 Bensherta Swing, 10-1 Bold Edge, Pool Music, 12-1 Fluxing Ember, 16-1 Jimony Too, 20-1 Bensherban Biade 1996: Indian Rocket 6 12 R Hills 100-30 (J Durthop drawn (j) 10 rin FORM	Debutante Days, who was completing a hat-trick when she defeating Steaths a neck at Leicester early this month, should be in at the trish despite a 5th rise but Naran Fallon, who partnered her on that occasion, teams up with DARAPOUR this time and Luce Cuman's nuner could take the beating. Darapour, unraced as a two-year-old, landed a Bath maiden second time out in July. He got into all acits of trouble when market leader	10 63 TORRENT (16) (87) Pflyticier Recing Ltd; P Cole 9 0	2.45 PRIX DE LA SALAMANDRE (GROUP 1) E73,913 added 2YO 77 Penalty Value £51,739
Pat Eddery (who is out for the remainder of the sesson) turned down the ride on Plaisir D'Amour in the Ayr Gold Cup order to Inde ARRADIAN HERO here and Luca Cumani hes secured an able deputy in Rigner Palon. My selection got up close home to master sub- seguent Newmarket witner Bennstia Swing (no better off here) is neck at Gonous Good- wood on he second attempt and he made all at Plipon to detect Land Of Dreams two and a half lengths. The runner-up underlined the form in no uncertain fashion when com-	san impliced to Traccelobity on his handless bow at Sandown and has nur well to take minor honours in his two outings since - behind Labeq at Newmarket (in 2), where he finished strongly, and against Antic Owl at York (in 4). This longer trip should prove just nght. Foundry Lane hissn't won for more than two years but ran only three times in 1996 and weard descredited on his return when lenth of 2 in the Ebot, tollowing with York 8th	77 OD MISS DILLETANTE (16) (T Holland-Martin) R Johnson Houghton 8.9 Martin Dayler 12 15 0 POLY BLUE (16) (Sheet & Roll Convertors) Gay Kelenwy 8.9 R Fitwach (S) 13 16 0 ST LUCIA (10) (B J Meethant) B Meethan 8.9 G Histopon (7) 7 17 WAFFS FOLLY (F H Walton) G Charles-Jones 8.8 C Roller 10 18 10 POLY BLUE (16) (B Charles-Jones 8.8 C Roller 10	2 11 GREEK AKDER (85) (Steich Manuan Al Maktoum) C Britsin (35) 8 3 1 FANTASY ISLAND (29) (II) (Bucklythin) Sased bin Surcor (36) 9 0 4 30821 SPEEDFT TOO (26) (I Guest) G Margarson 9 0 5 312TH CHIP'S (20) (I) (Lucyler Study D Eberoff) (35) 9 0 6 103 HARBOUR MASTER (41) (Mms 8 Magnisr) A P Othion (4) 9 0
Ing home one of the season's most impressive wirners in Doncaster's Group Two Riving Children a week ago, and a het-trick tooks on the cards for the Itempolino colt. Barmington Blade stands her racing really well. Selection: ARKADIAN HERO	to Forgle. He is coming down in the weights and should not be far away. Shaketeeno sel- dom runs a bad race and had Life Of Rilley miles addit when chasing home Dance So	SETTING: 9-4 Deep Space, 5-1 Lucayen Indian, 6-1 Epaces Cyclone, 7-1 Tumbhesed Prospect, 10- 1 Robin Goodfellow, Atlanta, 12-1 Torrent, 14-1 others 1990: Speedbell 9 0 Pet Etitlery 11-10 fee (I Belding) drawn (22) 24 mn	7 1921 CHARGE D'AFFRURES (27) (Narques de Mostelei A De Rojes-Dupe) 8 32231 MARIGOT BAY (7) (Aire S Magnier) A P O'Brien (rh 8 10
CATTERICK 7 0M040 THREET	LIFFRAGILISTIK (84) B His 88 ID O'Donnhoe (3) 13 FEMERS (7) J Borry 8 8	others 8 434362 TOPTON (11) Belding 9 0S Whitmonth 8 V	der, 18-1 Seints Merins, 25-1 Chips, 35-1 others 1990: Revoque 9 0 J Reid 2-1 (P Chapple-Hyern, GB) chawn (1) 5 nen
HYPERION cred Times, Flying Ste 2.20 Bawsian 2.50 Title Bild 3.20 Dulas Bay 3.50 Tes- sajoe 4.25 Ziggy's Viola 4.55 Topton 5.30 Lamorna 7 E.B.F.	MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) Maided 2YO 6f CONSTANT SECURITY HANDICAP (CLASS D) 1 1000 TESSAUGE (SD) (CD) M Camacho 5 1	25,000 1m 4f 12 0. FANTASY FLIGHT (985) M Fell 89 D O'Donohov (8) 9 00 S Copp (8) 4 18 0. SIX SHOOTER (215) E Waynes 8.9 Date Change 1	3.50 JETTERSON SMURFIT FISH ST LEGER BI
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best for 5f to 7f. © Left-hand course, undulating and strep. © Course is NW of town on ASTSS. Darlington station 14m - bus 3 00 SAMON1 service to course, ADMISSION; Club £11; Tattersalis £7; Course 4 000 STRCTL	L(USA) (28) E Hills 9 0	2 WARRING EXPRESS (CF) R Amelrong 8 9 F Norton 3 ds 594 F Lynch 7 5 08 WHO DEALT (45) R Holinshead 8 9 F Lynch 13 13 F Panding 2 15 declared 1 8 ETTING: 11.8 Warring France 2.1 Twitten 5 1 Report Charles	1 D0221 CLASSIC CLICHE (27 pt) (Goldphin) Saled bin Sursor (69) 59 8 2 30-25 OSCAR SCHROLLER (25) (CD) (O Lehans) K Pranciscond 5 8 b
● LEADING TRAINERS: J Berry – 27 winners from 192 runners 6 2 TITLE BI (141%), B Hillie 20-51 (392%), Mrs M Revniey 19-108 (175%), 7 0 EOLAND ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: K Darkey ~ 30 wins from 153 rides (195%), 8 00 INTLITIV	D (USA) (5) M Staute 90Fipch 1 7 -2310 DOUBLE BIGHT (17) (D) B Hills 3 8 5	_D O'Donohoe (5) 5 Besseloe, Canton Ven- Helio. 5.30 FRACING AGAIN NEXT SATURDAY FIL- Helio.	4 45221D SABIRAAN (16) (D) (87) (K W AHARDED) During (83) 49 8
BUINCERED PUST TIME: IT'S May (250); Kurepopsis (220). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: II Princips (220) won at Musseburgh on Monday. Le Volta (530) won at Notingham on Monday. Princess, 14-1 Bolsten	- 10 declared - , 3-1 August, 11-2 Benero, life May, 13-2 Moving pa, 16-1 Strictly Hilythm, 25-1 others 4.25 CATTERICK 'OPEN MORR' STAKES (CLASS G) 52,9	305446 GIPSY PRINCESS (21) (CD) M W Esslectly 3.9 12	tester Affait, 13-1 Stage Affait, 14-1 Family Tradition 1998: Oscar Schinder 4 9 8 S Craine 4-1 (K Prandergast) crawn (7) 9 ran
1 528N INCHALONG (7) (0) M Britain 9.7. G Berdwell 16 1 52No. UNICLE 1 0 0730 TANCRED TIMES (10) CD 30 Berdre 98 TWINGERS 7 2 00432 CHARTE	AM HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 1 01495 SKELTON SOVEREIGN (SQ R Holland 1 1 TT 71 177 yds 2 32096 RONGUSTA 070R (77) G Ham 8 10 - 00046 (1939) Mrs M Feweley 6 9 10 - S Copp (9) 8 3 000340 COCHT1 (S9) C Thurnton 8 5	FNorton 5	CURRAGH - SUNDAY
3	F (19) J L Sym 4 9 5 T Williams 4 5 0006 HEVER GOLF ANGEL (100) P Hosism DP (18) B Roswel 5 9 2 J Stack 3 0 6 0500 HOMARA BAY (26) Mas A Sociel 8 5 JPE (5) (0) John Brry 3 6 11 (50) C Baydwyl 7 7 656850 ZIGCY'S VIOLA (26) Mas M Resolucy 6: T 4 656	185 _ Date Giberon 1 8 604200 DELICHT OF DAWN (3) (0) E Wheeler 5 9 7 Carson (7) 10 B 5 D O'Thomoson (8) 7 9 25000_ GREY AGAIN (513) (0) D Shart 5 9 8 C Tengue (3) 6 2 40000 NICK (49) M W Enterby 3 9 6 Portion 6 15 B	4.15 AGA KHAN STUDS NATIONAL STAKES (GROUP 1) £200,000 2YO 1m Pen Val £112,600 5 GALAHAD (FE Sangker) T Stack 90 5 KNG OF KNGS 000 CC 10m 1 National 10 Color 10 Colo
7 660901 IMPULSE (29) (D) Mrs J Remotion 9 0	8 (FR) (179) R Holinshead 589	THE 2000 DESCL DIMINOR (46) (D) G Octopd 496 K Hotgase 17 12 01001 LA VOLTA (5) (D) Miss J Crass 496 (50) S Whiteler 9 B 13 330 POLENKA (21) J W West 9 95 (50) S Whiteler 9 B 14 650220 LAMORNA (5) M Chargon 383	2 GALAHAD (R E Sargaler) T Study 9 0
COCCOO PETARA (37) Whitergipt 8 11	AN COLD (29) Mrs M Reveloy 3 7 12 F Norton 13 (C-24-55 D.) 2-4-59 UV 2800 CPC TECTOBEN (28) F Visison 4 7 10	3 YO /T 5 61-600 SHOWGIRL (28) J H Wilson 3 9 2	TO TAKARAN (25) (D) (H H Aga Khan) J Oux 90
	3 SLOAME (J178) G Fierra 5 7 10	O Petra 2 BETTING: 9.2 Le Volta, 13.2 Gipsy Princess, 8-1 Bollero, Celenciina, De- Ji Familing 4 Bight Of Deser, Lamorne, 10-1 Polenks, 12-1 others	bary, 12-1 Neight, 16-1 Talbartari, 25-1 others 1985: Desert King 9 0 W R Swinburn 7-1 (A P O'Brien) drawn (A 10 me.



NEWBURY 2.90: BIN ROSIK, who beat Open Credit by threequarters of a length

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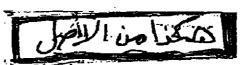
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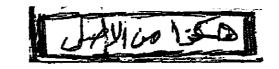
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nd 16 Figure	<u>33-1</u>	251	<u>18-1</u>	25-1	Suburatpark Plyer 25-1 33-1 23-1 20	1				
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	LONGCHAMP
	2.45 PRIX DE LA SALAMANDRE (GROUP 1) BBC1
	topic addition in the same and
1	1 12 XAAR (27) (SF) (KAbdulish) A Faixte 9 (1
. '	2 11 GREENLANDER (66) (Sheikh Marvan Al Maktoum) C Britain (GB) 80 .S Gullet 7 105
	8 1 FANTASY ISLAND (29) (ID) (Godolphin) Seeed bin Surger (GB) 9 0
1	4 305121 SPISEDETT TOO (25) 以 Guest G Mercerson 9 D
)	5 312101 CHIPS (20) (D) (Lucayan Studi D Essiorth AGE) 9 0
ı	6 103 HARBOUR MASTER (41) (Mrss 5 Magner) A P Officen (in) 9 0 C Assessmen 9 110
	7 122 CHARGE D'AFFAIRES (27) (Marquetes de Mondales A De Royer-Dupre 9 0 G Montes & 175
il	8 32231 MARIGOT BAY (7) (Airne S Magnier) A P O'Brien (Iri) 6 10 A Helferman 4 102
li	9 512 SABITE MARINE (20) (D) (R C Strates) R Colet 8 10 T James 3 05
	- 8 decising -
l j	
	BETTING: 5-2 Xeer, Charge D'Affaires, 3-1 Fantacy Island, 5-1 Harbour Master, 14-1 Grounds-
. 1	der, 16-1 Seinte Merice, 25-1 Chips, 33-1 others
	1996: Revoque 9 0 J Reid 2-1 (P Chepple-Hyern, GE) chawn (f) 5 res

	3,50 JEFFERSON SMURFIT FISH ST LEGER BBC1/C4
	1 D-0221 CLASSIC CLICHE (Z7) (D) (Godolphin) Second bin Surror (GB) 598 1 Delbut 7 122
	2 30-253 OSCAR SCHROLER (20) (CD) (O Lehend) K Prendagest 5 9 B
	3 10552 PERSIAN PLANCH (4) (D) (J C Smith) D Saworth (GE) 498 G Duttabl 4111
-	4 45821D SAMERAAN (16) (D) (89) (K M Al-Mudref) J Duriop (GB) 4 9 8
	5 -5312 WHITEWATER AFFAIR (51) (J. M. Grechern) M. Sinute (GS) 4 9 5
	6 1-1 STAGE AFFAIR (USA) (25) (C) (D: M W Smurill) D Weld 3 8 12
	-7 declared -
1	SET I Bill: 8-4 Classic Clicks. 2-1 Decay Subjection 7-4 Common and Provide Name of Automatic
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l			<u> </u>	DRKAGH - SUNDAY		
ł	1	4	.15	AGA KHAN STUDS NATIONAL STAKES (GROUP 1) £200,000 2YO 1m Pen Val £112,600	BBC	2
l	1	2	5	GALAHAD (R E Sancsieri T Stort on		
١	ŀ	3	1121 0161	KING OF KINGS (28) (C) (Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brier 9 0 MAGICAL MRY(Y (11) (D) (D F Jefferson) W P Males 9 0		
١	ļ	5				
١	Į	7		MOMERAY (USA) (S2) (Sir George Mayridg P Cole (GE) 9 0 NATALIS (22) (C) (Larly Clague) J Oxy 9 0 SARATORA SPERMS (CAMP)		
١	ļ	9	100	SIDEMAN (21) (C) (M Tabort A P O'Briss 9.0.		2 TV 2 H07
۱	ı			- 10 species - 10 mark from the bit of the b	, 7 Surriges ,	i we
1	١	100	F 15-1	l-6 King Of Kings, 7-1 Mountain Song, Samtoga Springs, 10-1 Cali Inipin, 16-1 Taharian, 26-1 others	c Comillor, I	10°
J	ŀ	100	or Dead	nt King 9 0 W R Swindown 71-1 (A P O'Brien) drawn (Z) 10 ran		





17/RACING

Time for Wildwood Flower to bloom

Fillies flourish in the autumn and that factor, combined with a favourable draw, narrows down the field for today's Ayr Gold Cup to manageable proportions, writes Greg Wood

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Daunting is simply too small a word for the two 29-runner sprint handicaps which form the centrepiece of today's programme, and unlike 12 months ago, there is not even an obvipunters to latch on to in the Ayr Gold Cup. Then, it was Coastal favouritism at 3-1 and duly can- Wildwood Flower (24).

tered home, but in a race of such the height of greed to expect anything similar today.

This field is far more evenly matched, and the only crutch for punters is a couple of trends which have emerged in recent runnings of the race.

The first is that a high draw seems a serious advantage, with four of the last five winners coming from a box in the mid to high 20s. The other is the fine record of fillies and mares in this race, which arrives at just the point of the season when the female of the species can show dramatic ously progressive runner for improvement. As a result, two names stand out in today's otherwise impenetrable list. My Bluff, who was backed down to Melody Parkes (drawn 29) and

strength and depth, it would be Parkes could not have been better treated by the ballot, and with her stablemate Selhurstpark Flyer likely to set the pace from 19, Jack Berry will go into the race with much optimism. At the likely odds, however,

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Sharp Hat (Ayr 4.15) (Ayr 3.35)

WILDWOOD FLOWER (nap 4.15) is the choice, following a victory last time out which implied that she is recapturing her excellent three-year-old form.

In the Silver Cup Perryston View (3.05) should go well from stall 28, and dependable Sand-

Certainly, My Melody moor Chambray (next best 3.35) deserves his chance in the Doonside Cup. Enjoyment of what should be a marvellous afternoon for armchair punters could be spoiled, though, by nothing more than a lost shoe before one of the races, since the schedules at Avr and Newbury are just five minutes apart. Perhaps racing's well-heeled administrators simply do not realise that not everyone has two televisions.

At Newbury, Arkadian Hero will start at short odds for the Mill Reef Stakes, Luca Cumani's colt won a good event at Ripon last time which has pinpointed the Mill Reef winner in the last two years.

He should complete a shortpriced double for Kieren Pallon, who rides Bin Rosie (2.00) in the

opener. Bin Rosie is owned by Wafic Said, who said that Fallon would never touch another of his runners after Bosra Sham's defeat in the Eclipse Stakes. That was just about Fallon's only mistake this season and he richly deserves another chance - indeed, some of Fallon's more dedicated fans might question whether Said deserves him. Success today might see him back aboard Bosra Sham in the Champion Stakes now that Pat

Eddery is out for the season. Game Ploy, winner of the Courage Handicap 12 months ago, will be fancied to do so again today, but he has been rising in the weights. Titta Ruffo (3.00), who ran well when reoffers better value, while

Foundry Lane (3.30), well handicapped on his four-year-old form, is the Autumn Cup pick.

An excellent weekend at the Curragh has been tarnished by the removal of Central Park from tomorrow's National Stakes, In his absence, King Of Kings should complete a bigrace double for Irish runners, since Oscar Schindler looks good for today's Irish St Leger. a so-called Classic with just two three-year-olds in the field.

The main event in France is the Prix de la Salamandre at Longehamp today, which has been ousted from its place on Sunday by trotting at Vincennes. This lack of taste should at least be punished by victory turning from a lay-off recently, for one of the five foreign runA is for . . . Accumulator: And also for avoid. Doubles, trebles and

the rest were invented in the 1820s by a Newmarket bookmaker called Richard Crockford. Punters thought him mad to offer a huge payout for a relatively small stake. but Crockford was well aware that the percentages which work in a bookie's favour in a single race grow ever larger as the number of selections is increased since a single loser will cancel out any number of winners. When Crockford had his bright idea, he was all but penniless. By the time of his

lost on every generation of

punters since.

trainer with the happy - or. some of his colleagues might say, irritating - knack of taking apparently exposed horses and improving them by a stone or more. His strike-rate in the big handicaps in the 1990s is such that a £10 level stake on every Akehurst runner in a handicap worth £20,000 or more would have put you £570 on the right side of even. There are doubtless those trainers who insist that this record is the result of a midnight ceremony involving weird symbols on the walls and a sacrificial goat. The more mundane truth. though, is that he is simply better at it than they are.

All-weather racing: A slight misnomer, since most of the elements of a British winter have forced its abandonment at one time or another, but undoubtedly one of the most significant innovations in racing since the War. In its early days at Lingfield and Southwell. particularly over the lethal and unlamented plastic hurdles, the runners were of merest hint of ability could at odds against. Now, has a stock market capital

imponderables.



GREG WOOD THE A-Z OF BETTING

Ante-post: Betting on a race

several days, weeks or even

many months in advance is. death, he was one of the richin general, a very efficient est men in Newmarket. The way to back losers, albeit that moral of this story has been there may be Pyrrhic satisfaction to be had in taking 33-1 about a horse which. come the big day, is beaten Akehurst, Reg: Epsom-based at 5-2. On extremely rare occasions, an ante-post gamble will succeed, but you can be sure that the principal beneficiaries will be the owner and trainer concerned, who are more than rich enough already. Anyone striking a bet on the day of a race would be extremely foolish to ignore factors such as the going, draw and current stable form, yet that is what those who plunge in the ante-post market do as a matter of course. A cautionary tale concerns the punter who spent the entire winter of 1990-91 backing Cool Ground for the Gold Cup. at all odds from 40-1 down the 7-1 at which he eventually started. He stood to win a fortune, but Cool Ground could finish only fourth. Twelve months later. Cool Ground won the Gold Cup at 25-1, Said punter. needless to say, did not have a penny on.

Anthorisation: The process by which a request to stake £200 at 12-1 in an openlooking handicap is rapidly transformed into an offer of such desperate quality that "£25 at 12-1 and the rest at most were puffed by the SP, take it or leave it". It is time they reached the post, no coincidence that authoand those with even the risation generally takes place somewhere in the run up hat-trick after hat- head office of a "leisure intrick without ever starting dustry" multinational which though, the competition for isation in the billions and a places is fierce, and many chief executive on at least punters have started to re- £1m (plus bonuses and opalise that, when compared tions) per annum. As they to a maiden hurdle on know only too well, the last heavy ground at Fakenham, thing their shareholders are a 12-runner handicap on interested in is laying a fair Equitrack or Fibresand is a bet at a fair price. Giving far more interesting propo- their shrewder punters the sition. The going is fast "knock-back" is also an exand consistent, and the cellent way for bookies to horses now relatively so, collect information on which while the fact that there are horses are fancied for a parjust three tracks, all left- ticular race, and as such. handed, cancels out anoth- considerably cheaper and er of British racing's great more reliable than bribing a stable-lad.

Berry gives his all on the low road to Ayr

For Jack Berry, success in today's Ayr Gold Cup would be better than winning the Derby. It would be well deserved too as Berry has never forgotten his injurystrewn career as a jockey and contributes more to the welfare of injured and retired riders than anyone in the sport

If you were to ask the racehorse trainers of Britain to form a line according to the ease with which they had reached their position, you would find at one end a few for whom it had all come very easily indeed. The head waiter walked up to their well-appointed table in the fivestar restaurant of Life, removed the lid from a silver platter and said: "Here you are, Sir. Success on a plate."

Right down at the other end of the queue would be Jack Berry: trainer, jump jockey (retired hurt), author, fund-raiser, above all, as he puts it, "a doer". day, Berry is one of the most fa-that's the race I'd love to win." fore building his perfect stable, miliar figures on our race-tracks. and also one of the most popu- could have been worse. He. His first winner from the new lar, not least as a result of his prodigious ability to turn out winners, of which there have been more than a thousand in the last decade alone. Punters know that every single horse with Berry's initials on its saddlecloth might as well have "tryer" brand-

ed on its haunches. Every race matters to Berry, but much as he cherishes each in Tenerife, when he found that success, he would probably sac- there was precious little else to rifice a couple of dozen or so if do - "there's no fields, it's all volit would guarantee victory for canic no birds or animals" - and one of his four runners in the that the local shop stocked Avr Gold Cup this afternoon. notepads. The chapters dealing

RACING RESULTS

NEWBURY NEWBURY
2.10: 1. SUNLEY SEEKSR (I. Deticn)
14-1: 2. Acid Test 12-1; 3. Buston 4-1 far;
4. Proticiting 18-1. 17 ran. 25. 174. (M. Crannon, Upper Lambourn). Reta: £5520; £380, £200, £180, £562. DF: £5390, £57: £380, £200, £180, £100. EF: £540, £100. £100.
2.40: 1. CLAN BEN (K. Ration) 7-1: 2. Crimson Tide 9-4 it fav. 3. Conon Felia 9-4 it fav. 5 ran. 74. 376. (H. Cecl., Newmarket).
788: £750; £270, £160. DF: £1040. CSF. £109.

C1893 3.10: 1. AMABIEL (M Hills) 14-1; 2. Hol-low Haze 13-8 it fav; 3. Bitus Gentian 13-8 it fav 5 ran. 11/s. 21/.: (I Beking, Kingscle-re) Tota: \$77:0; \$290, \$170 OF: \$4560 CSF.

AYR AT K
2.00: 1. FALLS CTMONESS (J F Egen)
33-1: 2. Break The Rules 8-1: 3. Zerba 20-1
11 ren. 11-8 tav Brighstone, Nk. 5. (K Suries,
Wartisge). Tota: C31.30: E410, C420, C300.
DF: C9700 CSF C5066, NR. Rumming Green.
This: C470.00; C470.75 canned torward to Ayr

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 971 981 NEWBURY 972 982
CATIBRICK 973 983
CARIBRICK 974 984
WOLVERHAMPTON 925 985 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

much the realist for that. As a teenage stable-hand from a nine-strong household in Leeds where money was always scarce, he set his heart on the Ayr Gold Cup. and when So Careful fi-1988, the crowd greeted the 33-1 shot like a favourite. "Everybody in racing knew

what it meant to me," he says. When I was an apprentice with Charlie Hall in Yorkshire, Towser Gosden, John's father, used to stop off at our place for a few days with the horses he was sending up to Ayr. Being fairly light, I'd ride them out, and compared to the jumpers, they were like machines, beautiful horses and so fast. They had a habit of winning the Ayr

-BY-GREG WOOD

It took him 35 years, but it almost with his bare hands. might, for instance, have been yard was in a selling hurdle, but forced to wait a year for each of soon, the ex-jump jockey turned the 46 bones he broke during a his attention to the Flat, and in 13-year career as a jump jock- particular, two-year-olds. ey, or another 12 months after that, to match the number of winners he partnered. Berry's autobiography, It's Tougher At The Bottom, was, typically, largely written in the space of 10 days

2.30: 1. FASHION VICTIM (A Culture)
25-1; 2. Teartway 25-1; 3. Flower O'Cannic 20-1; 15 ran. Th- fav Holy Wine -4; 3.
(T Calcheel, Warrington! Toke 255:0; 246),
2380, 2480, DF- 2592-20. CSF- 2653:98 Thcast: STUB148 Tile: Not wor; 2572-12 carnic forwest to Ayr 430 today, NP: Fiver Beal.
3,00: 1. COMFIRMATION (S Duffield) 7-4
tar; 2. Ho Lang 8-1; 3. King Of The River
6-1 5 ran. 11/4. 3 (Sr Mark Prescott, Newmarked). Totar: 2280; 2180, 2230. DF: 2220.
CSF: EP27!
3,30: 1. REGAL, REVOLUTION (J Lowe)
16-1; 2. Sapphire Ring 5-2 tar; 3. Thanlogolving 12-1 14 ran. Nr. 2 (P Walaryn, Larabourn). Totar: 2520; 2520, 2530. DF:
23280. CSF: 26428. Tile: 21630. DF:
23280. CSF: 26428. Tile: 21630. DF:
23280. CSF: 26428. Tile: 21630. DF:
23280. CSF: 26428. Tile: 21630.
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DF: 26430.
DF: 26

4.30: 1. SELMESTON (R Piranch) 8-1; 2. Opeque 9-2 ser; 3. Arian Spirit 10-1; 13 rent. Hi. 3. (S Williams, Newmerland, Tota: 20.30; C140, C200. DF: £3400. CSF: £3781. Tricast: £33361. This: £1850. S.00: 1. KNNO-381.EENBEZE (J Fortune) 7-1; 2. Westman's Weigh 16-1; 3. Perticles 8-1; 4. Royal Result 16-1; 3. Perticles 8-1; 4. Royal Result 16-1; 3. Perticles 16-1; 2. Perticles Perticle

... [-HUNT ING DON 2.20: 1. TOMMY COOPER (E.B)ms) 14-1; 2. Wickens One 10-1; 3. Mildig 11-2: 10 ran. 5-2 lev Mich's Tycon (Wh), 11-1, 11-1, Mrs Bar-bers Wardy), 10se: 22101; 2400, 2228, 2120, DF: 20720, CSF: £13962, Woost £280317, Wo.

2.50: 1. FED ON OATS (A P McCoy) 4-5 fer; 2. Euro Singer 7-4; 3. Snowdon Lity 1-1.4 ran. 4, 25. (Mass Venetic Williams) Total: 12.70. DF: 52.40. CSF: 52.50. 3.20: 1. SNOWY PETREL (H Dunwoody)

320: 1. SNOWY PETREL (R DUNSCON)
3.10: 1. SNOWY PETREL (R DUNSCON)
10.1: 2. Roderick Hadeon TI-2; 3. Mazilla
10.1: 11 rap. 45 fav More Than You Know.
10.3: (C Menn). Tota: £100: £230. £220.
£220, DP. £12m CSF: £52.8. Trio: £4740.
3.50: 1. SCOTTISH BANEL (J Osborne)
7-4 fav; 2. I Have Him 3-1; 3. Cross Cannon 4: 8 rsn. 4. 1/4. (P Webbes) Tota: £270.
£100. £170. DF: £370. CSF: £754.
4.20: 1. GAME DULEMBA (S Currar) 6-1;
2. Wesnellist 11-2; 3. Thanne Arans 6-1; 12.
Wesnellist 11-2; 3. Thanne Arans 6-1; 12.
(I Mullist) Tota: £250. £260. £140. £150. DF: £2630. CSF: £4151. Thoss: £202.37. The: £7580.

Many trainers set out with with his riding career are fascithe ambition of saddling a Der-nating, but could be summarised by winner, but Berry was far too thus; got knackered, had a month off, came back, got to the fifth, fell, got knackered again. Repeat ad nauseam.

"I was the first freelance jump jockey," he says. "If a trainer had a horse that was a bit of nally realised his ambition in a bonecruncher, he didn't want his own jockey on it, so being a freelance, I'd ride it. It was a bit like being a kamikaze pilot."

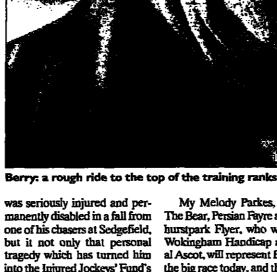
It was during one of his frequent spells in hospital, in May 1965, that Berry began to sketch out his plans for a training yard. He had broken five bones in a "very messy" fall at Market Rasen - his foot was caught in the irons and he bumped the ground several times beneath the horse's belly before finally coming free. Forced to lie flat on his back in a plaster cast, he Gold Cup, and I told myself, if could not even write with a biro, I'm ever lucky enough to train, so he asked for a pencil instead and doodled upside down for hours on end.

The drawings were forgotten for the first few months of his training career, but when a suitable farm became available near Cockerham in Lancashire, Berry needed little invitation to raze the wooden buildings be-

"I love the babies," he says. "They're as good as you make them. They're raw, innocent and nice. You're not a trainer, you're a teacher, and you teach them a bit of common sense, you keep them warm and look after them well, and then they'll go out of their way to pay you back."

Paying back is something Berry knows a good deal about. In 1985, his youngest son, Sam,

CARLISLE



into the Injured Jockeys' Fund's most dedicated fund-raiser (only a week ago he presented the LJF with a cheque for £45,000). "It's not just me, it's a team

effort and I take the credit," he save, "but I know that they could easily be doing it for me. I broke all those bones as a jump jockey but I'm still comparatively sound, and it means that I can put a little back."

My Melody Parkes, Albert every morning and you can get The Bear, Persian Payre and Selhurstpark Flyer, who won the Wokingham Handicap at Royal Ascot, will represent Berry in the big race today, and the firstnamed in particular will go to post with every chance. Defeat, though, will be met philosophically. "Lots of painters are never famous until they're in a box," Berry says. "I'm not saying I'm famous, but I've achieved

dressed, eat, keep warm and have shelter over your head, you've cracked it, really." When Berry won his first Ayr Gold Cup nine years ago, wellwishers crammed the winner's

enclosure to breaking point. Should be win again today, though, he will not be difficult to spot in the maul, having recently had his head shaved to raise money for Shane Brodermy ambition and anything else ick, the Irish jump jockey paralis a bonus. There's plenty of peoysed in a fall earlier this year. Simply look for the skinhead ple in their graves who'd love to with the big grin.

Photograph: Robert Hallam

HYPERION 1.45 Wayuphill 2.15 Furletto 2.45 Leap In The Dark 3.15 Cumberland Blues 3.45 Pentland Squire 4.20 Master Kit 4.50 C'Mon Tiger

Squire 4.20 Master Kit 4.50 C'Mon Tiger
GOBNG: Hurdle course - Good to Firm (Good in places); Cheses course - Good to Firm (Firm in places).

• Right-hand, undulating course.
• Course is 4m W of junction 42 of MS, Bus service from Cartale station 2m, ADMESSION: Cub D12 (OAPs 3 under-21s 25); Takinstale 55 (OAPs 3 under-21s 25); Takinstale 55 (OAPs 3 under-21s 25); Takinstale 56 (OAPs 3 under-21s 25); Takinstale 57 (OAPs 3 under-21s); Takinstale 57 (OAPs 3 unde

BELTING: 4-8 Weynphill, 5-1 Doot Forget Cartin, 13-2 Persuasive Tel-ent, 12-1 Chief Of Khorassan, 14-1 Berners, 16-1 others 2.15 SOUR NOOK ROYAL OAK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,100 added 2m

P14-43 SPEAKER'S HOUSE (16) (D) Miss L Russell 8 11 10.....

2.45 BROTHERSWATER H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS E) 23,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

27780.
27780.
27780.
2 Mister Gebo 12-1; 3. Spring To It 9-4 fax.
6 ran. 2%, 3. (4 Jones). Pater £820; £170.
5510. DF: £2800. CSF: £4058.
520: 1. LATIN MISTRESS (1. Cummiss).
2-1 fax; 2. Misty Class 4-1; 3. Posh Spice.
7-1 11 ran. 2. 4. (P. Nchols). Totat £280;
1130. £200. £280. DF: £1160. CSF: £180. Inc.
27740.
Placeport £194840. Guadpot: £14090. 22/40. Placepot: \$1,948.40. Quadipot: \$140.90. Place 8; £602.81, Place 6: £150.53.

be around at 60. If you wake up 3.15 'RED RUM' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) \$5,000 added 3m

-5 deciared -Librimum weight 10st. True hendicep weights: Greenlinch 9st 11ib, Jaurily

Gig Set 100. BETTBNC: 11-10 Royel Vacation, 11-4 Cumberland Blues, 9-2 Greenlinch

3.45 GOLDEN PHEASANT CLIBURN H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS F) 53,000 added 2m 1f

Minimum: 10st. True weights: My Missile 9st 6th. Spicios Delight 8st 11th. SETTING: 11-4 Silent Guest, 100-90 Child Want, 4-1 Hobbs Choice, 5-1 Pentland Squire, 11-2 Wall Appointed, 7-1 My Minetie, 25-1 Spicios Delight

4.20 CUMBRIA LEISURE AVENUE INN NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 3m P2-511 TWO FOR ONE (21) (D) Mass L Russell 8 11 12. A Thornton 5PP-41 THE EMERICISER (16) D Lamb 11 11 5 F03-6 MASTER KTI (25) (D) J Ellings 6 11 2 Jib Nil Bradburne (7) 5PO-PP GOODHERWENS METONY (15) (D) A J Lockwood 10 10 72 A Double of the Company of the Com

- 9 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Thump, 9-2 lift Reiner, 5-1 Pubble Beach, 6-1 Master Kit, 7-1 Hobicit, 8-1 Tires For One, 10-1 The Emergiser, 20-1 White Diamond,

4.50 INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 1f

THE STATE OF THE S

WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION 7.00 Gift Of Gold 7.30 Drift 8.00 Bar-rack Yard 8.30 Salsee Lad 9.00 Wildcat 9.30 Wentridge Lad

Cat 9.30 Wentridge Lad

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: Inside.

DRAW ADMANTAGE: High from 61 to 1m 41.

● Fibresand, left-hand, ovel course.

● Course is N of town on A448. Wolverhampton station 1m. ADMISSION: Club P15; Tattersals £6 (CAP members of Demond Club D1): Viewing Restaurant £25:00 including entrance and meal.

CAR PARK: free.

● LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollinshead 60-557 (D3%), M Johnston 51-28 (234%), J Berry 42-284 (N4%), A Belley 34-282 (721%).

● LEADING JOCKEYS: J Weaver 53-278 (239%), S Sanders 38-377 (72%), L Dettori 32-57 (204%), G Carter 31-221 (14%), FANOURITIES: 336 wins in 1063 arcaes (207%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME Royal Shock (viscred) (200, Supercharmer (viscred) (730, Subtle Rouch (viscred) (230, Rock From The Sun (300, WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

7.00 EBF MALI MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 2YO 1m 100yds

7.30 L A METALS ANNIVERSARY MAIDEN H'CAP (CLASS E) £3,800 1m 100yds = 13 declared = BETTENC: 3-1 Drift, 5-1 Jody Jackson, 11-2 D J Cal, 8-1 Thragone, Colonel's

8.00 KENYA HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 6f 001036 DESERT INVADER (36) (CD) (BF) D Chapman 6 10 0

1-500 BARRACK VARD (18) (CD) A Stevent 49 12 _S Whitwords 12
025000 NAPIER STAR (8) (C) (D) Mrs N Macculey 49 12 _W J O'Commor 11 V
550006 TAKHLID (28) (CD) D Crepmen 5 9 12 ____ A Cultume 10
4-4035 BEYOND CALCULATION (27) P Hams 39 11 C Lowder (5) 8
060000 HOH RETURNES (28) (D) B Presce 4 9 8 ____ S Sanders 6

8.30 MOZAMBIQUE LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 6f 166yds

9.00 DUNSTALL PARK SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) 22,500 added 2YO 7f 4 30436 ROCK FROM THE SUN (40) (CD) W G M Turner 8 11 ...

5 SHARP MONKEY Mr. N Macsady 8 11 ... W J O'Conner? (3) 6 B

5 UTHER PENDRAGON (31) J Bernett 8 11 ... G Barderell 11

7 NORY GRIL K Wingrovs 8 6 ... N Day 9

8 0 LADY ELL (20) B Small 6 6 ... J Stack 1

9 00 LINDA (12) N Calagien 8 6 ... S Drowne 2

10 0 LITTLE CRACKER (35) A Newcombs 8 6 ... J F Egen 12

10 ROMANTIC SECRET (95) R Judies 8 6 ... Y Shattery 3

12 00 ROMANTIC SECRET (95) R Judies 8 6 ... Y Shattery 3

BETTING: 8-4 Wildcat, 9-2 Emperor's Gold, 8-1 Captain Bliss, 7-1 Rock From The Sun, 10-1 Pink Ticket, 14-1 Sharp Monkey, heavy Girl, Lady EB, 20-1 others

9.30 ZAMBIA HANDICAP (CLASS F) \$2,800 added 1m 4f



One devastating delivery and all hope of mastering the art of cricket drained away

ter it had left his hand.

Where do you go from

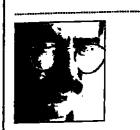
there? Well, back to the pavil-

ion, of course. But beyond that,

such an event naturally causes

one to consider one's future vis-

à-vis the sport involved. Plus



ROWBOTTOM

ON PROBLEMS CAUSED BY A WORD OUT OF PLACE

Our foul pipe glistened in the un- study - Sir Leonard Hutton's ground in the middle distance, familiar sun. Fractured. But the news was not all bad.

"You can save the gully if you want," said our plumber, leaning well down into the watery trench to display the traditional badge of his trade. "Oh good," I replied. "That's

one good thing."
The gully, I had no idea what it was, but if it could be saved, then, surely, so much the

It would have been all right to have left it there. No one would have complained. But the

word tugged at me. Some years earlier, taking part in a cricket match, I had been despatched to the gully by

For whatever reason, I have always found cricket a difficult sport to get to grips with. Despite

1961 publication, aptly entitled the entire fourth form of girls ar-Cricket, has been my guide in these matters - important cricketing facts, such as the correct grip for the leg cutter or, for instance, where to stand when sent

to the gully, have always eluded

I have wondered at times whether this might be psychological, relating perhaps to a traumatic experience in my school fourth year, when, for reasons which have always escaped me, I was selected to open the batting in an inter-form match

against my mate Jumbo. He fancied himself as a fast bowler, and given his natural attributes - 6ft 4in, school 400 metres champion, arms down to his knees - the dreams were not

As my friend pawed the

there was the fact that I had no

rived at the boundary, dressed Why, given that sad history, for a cross country race. I had ever agreed to turn out I did what I knew I had to in again in cricket whites is a questhe circumstances. I asked for tion I can't answer. A favour for middle and leg. As my batting a friend, I think it was.

partner gravely considered the Given my orders, I began a position of my grounded blade slow, ambiguous walk towards - "Left a bit... right a bit... the wicket. In my mind's eye, I middle" - the words deckchairs saw the star-bursts of field placand Titanic came into my mind. ing diagrams, with lines leading Jumbo took a long time arout from the wicket to marked riving, growing bigger and bigpositions.

ger, his long, hippy hair flying up under his school tie bandanna. Short third man. Deep square leg. Silly mid-off. And the But it took a very short time for prefacing rebuke of my guide the ball to scatter my wicket afbook coming back to me: "In my opinion, there is no excuse for

> I kept walking after I passed the wicket, heading, as I thought, for somewhere quite far behind it. Or was that third man?

> When I was brusquely sum-

moned by team-mates to join them near the stumps - mental note: gally stands with the slip fielders - I carried on a little further, as if checking an irregularity in the pitch which had been bothering me. But in my heart

I knew I was safe. It has come up again, that

If it is the mark of a truly good footballer that they always seem to have time, I fall into the other category. When the ball arrives at my feet, I am playing pass the parcel with something that

The ticking becomes louder with fatigue. At that stage of the game when you feel tiredness in your legs - in my case, about 20 minutes after kick-off - the need not to fail, rather than to

succeed, becomes paramount After sending the ball on a

feeble are towards some jostled team-mate, you feel a shameful sense of relief. "You deal with it. I'm knackered." Then the ball comes back to

At such moments, players like Danny O'Shea have been invaluable. Bow-legged, ap-

proaching 50, this grizzled veteran of semi-professional football still regarded attempts to dispossess him as a personal He had the power to de-

moralise from long distance. As some powerfully built athlete bore down upon you with a weaving run, Danny would shout out: "He's going nowhere" with such deep contempt that the incoming forward would visibly shrink and check, doubts about his real worth already beginning to assail him.

But not all of Danny's hourse injunctions were as effective. Legs buckling with fatigue towards the end of one grudge match, I found myself in autious charge of the ball with opponents moving in from all sides.

What to do? Where to A familiar voice barked "Mick! In the gully! In the gully!" The gully. Yes. The gully. Where was the gully exactly? Sort of, inside-left position, or...? I gave the ball back to

As I stood surveying the unearthed contents of my driveway, I considered how ignorance, or reluctance to disclose a lack of knowledge, had hindered me over the years, and how it needn't have been that way.

So I asked the plumber about the gully. It was the big concrete thing.

Seve relishes history and a homecoming

The staging of the Ryder Cup in Spain for the first time next week will give the competition a special flavour - especially for a European team led by one of the modern

inspirational figures, Severiano Ballesteros.

Severiano Ballesteros' career has been one of cause and effect. Give him a cause be believes in passionately and the effect can be devastating. Two of the most powerful influences in his golfing life have been his passion for beating Americans and his desire to raise the propoint, Seve had fallen under the file of the game in his home spell of the Ryder Cup. country. In next weekend's Ryder Cup, the two collide. As captain of the European team, Ballesteros will put the drama into Valderrama.

That the Ryder Cup, the gift seed merchant Samuel Ryder in 1927, will be played in Spain for the first time is deserved recog-Spaniard

The Belfry. The one-time potato field in the west Midlands has staged the last three matches in Europe, and will do so again in bunker over the green which en-2001, the centenary year of the abled him to halve his match. Professional Golfers' Assocation which is based there.

So this is Ballesteros' golden moment, though, like most things in his career, controversy has not been far away. Rows first time on American soil. about who should be on the team merely followed squabbles about where the match should have been played. Anything green at Kiawah Island in '91, Ballesteros arrives on the first to go to his own course, Novo could happen this week, and probably will.

unpredictable and the brilliant would have been lost to the competition which best suits his genius but for Jack Nicklaus. It took no lesser a person than Nicklaus to persuade the British PGA to open its doors to the continental Europeans to even up what had become a biennial non-contest.

At the time, Ballesteros had 19-year-old by finishing as runner-up in the 1976 Open Championship. By the time he and Antonio Garrido teed up in the 1979 Ryder Cup, Ballesteros had become the Open champion at Lytham. By 1983, when the Americans won by only a

BY ANDY **FARRELI**

nition for a quite exceptional that the Ryder Cup meant a lot and gets the best out of the rest The event has only been here that he played what he played outside England or would later describe as "one of America once, at Muirfield in the shots of my life". At one Lee Trevino or Brian Huggett Scotland, and in recent times has point three-up on Fuzzy in the past, can turn that inspiappeared the private property of Zoeller, the Spaniard saw his ration as a player into skilled lead disappear and was in trouble at the last when he hit a challenge. "I believe so," said three-wood from a fairway

> Seve's spirit and enthusiasm drove Europe on to the historic best out of us." victories at The Belfry in 1985. the first win in 28 years, and at Muirfield Village 1987, for the left out of the 1981 match due

missing that putt on the final did not break down until em-

Yet Ballesteros' flair for the later, sent to console Costantino Rocca, who lost a vital match. Seve ended up being cheered by

> "I think that Seve Ballesteros is the most incredible being I have ever met," Tony Jacklin, Europe's captain in from 1983 to 1989, said at Muirfield Village. "In situations like this he is almost superhuman."

David Feherty, who played already announced himself as a in the '91 match, explained it this way: "It's almost like there's a force field around him," he said. "He gets this aura of invincibility.

Even playing the worst golf of his life two years ago at Oak Hill, Ballesteros, without hitting a fairway on the front nine, managed to be only one down to Tom Lehman in the top singles. The point was eventually lost, but the not on his teammates, who fed on his willpower to overturn a two-point deficit and regain the Cup.

"He doesn't leave anything Olazabai, who partnered Ballesteros to 11 wins in 15 matches "That was when I realised together. "He tries the best to everyone," he said. It was of the players. That's why he has been so inspirational."

Whether Ballesteros, unlike leadership as captain is his next Olazabal. "I think he will somehow make the team into a strong team and a very close team. I believe he will get the

But along the way have been the controversies, too. He was to a dispute about appearance convinced it is no coincidence braced by Ballesteros. Two years their clashes in the 1989 and regrets getting involved. On golf clubs in 1994, there was vir-



Seve Ballesteros: The Ryder Cup in Spain is a golden moment for the Spaniard but controversy has not been far away

described him as "the king of Spanish Golf Federation a "can- and the federation had to regamesmanship", a statement cer on the game" and accused serve 5,000 tickets. Of the he later retracted.

Off the course, it has been no the Bolivian Jaime Ortiz-Patino, But there have also been money on the European tour, was always the front-runner to campaigned for the Ryder Cup tee with a little cough. After Sancti Petri, near Cadiz. He now

How much notice Spain is different. While Valderrama, taking of the Ryder Cup, the exclusive course owned by though, is another of Ballesteros' concerns. "People will be interested for the week of the tears. Bernhard Langer, after while American players are stage the match, Ballesteros Ryder Cup, but not the week before or the week after," said a leading Spanish golf journalist.

When tickets went on sale to

Patino of trying to bribe him. 25,000 gallery, 18,000 are expected to come from Britain,

> northern Europe and America. While Andalucia has taken the opportunity to market itself as a worldwide destination, attracting new golf course building and large hotel groups like Marriott, the growth of golf in the country as a whole has been

> > for a lawn mower ride.

1991 matches, Paul Azinger two occasions he called the tually no immediate response golf societies and local villages complaints has been that there three or four rough holes.

> "That would never have there are only 100,000 golfers registered with the Spanish Federation. Golf is still a very elitist sport in Spain," the journalist added.

Hardly a line recorded Ballesteros' first US Masters victory in said Ballesteros. At least there 1980, which is something he has will be plenty to write about over

clearing scrubland to lay out were no Spanish in Munich or Crans for the team announcements-or non-announcements. happened 10 years ago, but They preferred to stay at home where the controversially excluded Miguel Angel Martin was venting his spleen.

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"It is very sad that it took Martin for the Spanish papers to write about the Ryder Cup," restricted to the emergence of not forgotten. One of his recent the next week.

Photograph: David McLain/AP

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Football All CONFERENCE Dover

Formbarrough v Hellins: Consistent
Formbarrough v Hellins: Consistent
All Lack V Hope: Abstraction as Willing:
All Lack V Hope: Abstraction as William
All Lack Club Premier Divisions the Marketin
All Lack Club Premier Divisi 3 0 unless stated Major football fatures: Page 27 GM VAUDHALL CONFERENCE

Lev v Stockton.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Casses v First (230): Con-nests Cusy v Aberystwyth (230): Constituet v Bengor City (20): Ectiv Viller Casses (120): Howertercheest v Forstreadog (230): Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff v Carses Ynys Mon (230): Preyad-er v Convey (230): Rhyl v Commertten (230): They v

AU priess estand
HEINEKEN (CUP Pool A: Milan v Leinster; Toulouse v Laicaster (6.05). Pool C: Bein-v Brive (2.5). Scottlan Borders v Portypridd (Poynder Park, Kelso) (70). Pool D: Muneter v Bourgoin (Thomend Park, Limento). Pool E: Liamell v Inviso (2.0); Pau v Caledonia (6.0).
EJROPEAN CONFERENCE Pool A: Agen v Bristo (105); La Rochelle v Cotte Vale (4.0). Pool C: 330. Pont Consertate v London (140). Pool C: 330. Pont Consertate v London (140). Pool

HarriHarriVilledovery (20); South Wales Police v Portypool (20); Wife Charliff and v Aberdann (20); Surman,
v Liendovery (20); South Wales Police v Portypool (20); Wife Charliff and v Aberdann (20).

SRN LEAGUE TROPHY Group & Editouph
Acade v Curie; Gale v Hariots FF; Gasgow Haria
v Trophy County; Burdes Herry Lad-Forest, Malos v Preston Lodge, Group B: Boroughmair v Spring
v; County; Dundes HeFF v Lad-Forest, Malos v Boger; Watsoniens v Kimmanock; West of Scotland
v Peetiles. Group C: Gordoniens v AberdanGSFP; Grangemouth v Stewarts Mal

Hockey

JRROR WORLD CUP (Islition Krynes): Egypt.
vArgentina (220), England v Germeny (20), Pakistan v Japan (40).
WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier:
Hightown v Stough (1145): Sutton Cotified v
Cetton (130); Otton v Troigens (20); Issaich v
Drasster (220), First Division; Loughtowough
Students v Centerbury (230); Bradenst v Winbedon (20), Bradford Swittenbank v Latester
(130); Chrimstord Highway v Sundarford Bedons
(230); Second Division: Wolding v Old Loughunrians (20); Easing v Was Winney (10); Sharwood
v Blusharts (20); Poynan v Abridge (130).
WOMEN'S WSST Presider Recland v Leoninster, Yale v Chellenham, Boumorrough v Ereisr
SI Austel v Statuton Wale; Colvell v Eronach.
WOMEN'S NORTHEERN Division Cone: Black
WOMEN'S NORTHEERN Division Cone: Black WOMEN'S MICHAND Premier: Crimeon Passi-ders v Belger; Kellering v Leicester; Luton v Noih: Stäffa; Pickwick v Hempton in Arden.

Basketball SER LEAGUE: Manchester v London Tow

BEINSON AND HEDGES CUP: Beatingstole v Notingham (830): Notingham v Peterborough (70): Pastery v Novcastle (70): Sheffield v Man-chaster (70): Sough v Bradunel (630): Telford v Ayr (730). Other sports GOLP: British Masters (Guardian Irish Women's Op

MOTOR RACING: British Tou

Tomorrow Football HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF INS-LAND Premier Division: Stephnod; Rovers v Piro Harps (3:5).

3.0 uniose states
HEINEGEN CUP Pool B: Glesgow v Swenses
(Scotstour, Gasgow); Wasps v Ulster. Pool D:
Carolii v Hertequins (2:5)

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester v Worthing (5.30); Crystal Palace v Leicester (5.0); Sheffleid v Wattord (50); Greater London v Birmingham (5.0) BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Avr v Shafflair (830); Brackmel v Nottingam (630); Cantilit v Stouch (63); Manchester v Paleby (63); Nontcallo v Tallord (630); Palenborough v Basingstois (63)

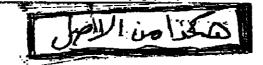
SPECT WAS A STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

Other sports GOLP: British Masters (Forest of Arden); Guardian Irish Women's Open (Dublic). TEMNIS: LIA Satellite (Hub).
MOTOR RACING: British Touring Car Championalite meeting (Silventone).

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY



Following the announcement that he is to leave Arrows, Damon Hill test-drives for the Green Stripe team, who will be competing in next season's Formula One World Lawnmower Championship. Hill fears there may be some cutting remarks about his new career, but sees his move as the "lawn of a new era". Alternatively this may be a photograph of Ryan Tripp, aged 12, driving a lawn mower in Oxford, Maine. He has driven it for more than 2,000 miles since leaving his home in Utah last month. He is on his way to Washington DC, where he is hoping to mow the White House lawn after breaking the world record distance



19/SPORT

A riveting night's viewing for the football fanatic and the cross-Channel swimmer



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ROBERT WINDER

SPORT ON TV

against Celtic on Tuesday back to C5 for Bordeaux v Asevening, Trevor Brooking ton Villa. By way of a nightcap, made an unusual confession: he was speaking about Michael Owen's cleverly angled runs, and admitted that they were "the sort of thing you can't really see on television." A clear faux pas on the face of it: TV pundits are not supposed to suggest that you'd be better off going to a football ground. highlights of Manchester Unit-But it was well-timed, coming as it did on an evening - Super Tuesday - when you could, if you wanted, have watched nothing but football for six straight hours.

Channel Five kicked off with Salonika v Arsenal; BBC1 English cricket took one look

fans could cool off with a quick blast of Coca-Cola Cup action - Millwall versus Wimbledon -

on Carlton. On Wednesday there was Newcastle v Barcelona (ITV) - confirmation that European matches "bring out the big adrenalin" in Faustino Asprilla – and ed v Kosice. And on Thursday we had Chelsea v Slovan Bratislava (C5). Viewers could be forgiven for forgetting that the cricket season was just bubbling to a climax.

Actually, in the week when

Midway through Liverpool's followed suit with Celtic versus at the future, and then tion, though, was no easy task. and I promptly became so Champions' League match Liverpool, and then it was slammed the door on it, it was salutary to be shown so forceson who watched five hours of fully the impetus that increased television coverage can give to night without seeing a single a sport. This three-day carnigoal. I missed Salonika's winval of international football ner against Arsenal because I came courtesy not of cable or flicked over to see Liverpool satellite, but of old-style terkick off against Celtic. When restrial TV. It was refreshing to Michael Owen struck in Glassee the people's channels showgow, I was watching Leicester casing the people's game at its attempt to hang on to a 1-0 lead most cosmopolitan, while the against Atletico Madrid (on big-buck satellite stations Eurosport). I went back to curled up with the parochial Glasgow, then on to Greece, version: Scunthorpe v Everton watching nothing much happen in the Coca-Cola Cup. Rein either place, and returned to freshing also to see Barcelona, Madrid to find that Atletico like so many British clubs over had pinched a 2-1 lead. "This can happen with the contithe years, coming to grief in one

of those tricky fixtures. Keeping abreast of the acI can't have been the only per- gripped by his stirring and lopsided loyalty to Leicester's continuous play on Tuesday cause ("Kamark's done a great man-to-man job on Juninho, even though he scored the goal") that I missed Celtic's equaliser against Liverpool. On and on it went. Wherever I came up for breath in my long, cross-Channel swim, the

goals rained in somewhere else. I began to think I could actually influence these faraway events, so I feel semi-responsible for Steve McManaman's last-gasp equaliser: I blipped over to the not-quite-live beginning of Bordeaux versus Aston Villa just as he started nental teams," said Gordon his obviously futile run at the

Banks in the expert's chair -

Pearce continued his high-oc- courtesy of Gordon Banks. As tane attempt to modernise the ancient protocols of commentary. "Still Arsenal press!" he cried, as Salonika swept upfield. "Go on Vieira!" he pleaded. "Gobble up that ground!" Elsewhere, as always on

Big European Nights," it was the Night of the Long Names. There are signs of an increasingly worldliness in our commentators: they rarely trip and stumble as they used to, perhaps because so many of the tricky names are in the Premiership these days.

But other stereotypes persisted. As so often, the overseas teams were violent cheats in cahoots with the referee. This

Over in Salonika, Jonathan was most obvious in Madrid, engage fans rather than commentators his view was spectacularly one-sided. Leicester, he thought, had done splendidly if you didn't count the two goals they let in.

It was left to Archie McPherson to inject a mixture of canny research and sheer waggishness into the proceedings. "Came from Slavia Prague, of course," he said casually when Atletico Madrid brought on their substitute, Beibl. "Talk about introducing iron to the side - he's your actual rivel."

Very much so, as we say in newspapers.

> SPORT ON THE INTERNET

Fast route to Ryder Cup

on the Net

As Europe gets ready for

its biennial outbreak of

golf fever, more unifying

than any EC directive, with

the start of the Ryder Cup

at Valderrama in Spain

next Friday, internet users

have a head start. There

are golf sites that cover the

American and European

tours on a weekly basis and

some have included sec-

tions on the Ryder Cup.

ficial Ryder Cup site, n-

dercup.com, and this

provides the most com-

prehensive coverage with

some interesting features.

With TV coverage re-

stricted to satellite, you

could do worse than follow

the action via the net and

the radio. This site is "cv-

However, there is an of-

Endurance test , for the very best

For nine months the competitors in the Whitbread Round the World Race, which starts in the Solent tomorrow, will have their physical and mental capabilities stretched to the limit. Stuart Alexander reports

The seventh and final Whitbread Round the World Race brings some of the best ocean line of one of the most gruelling

The first leg alone, 7,350 miles to Cape Town, will take 30 days of non-stop concentration and effort. 24 hours a day, with rarely more than three hours of continuous sleep for any of the 12 crew on board. That is 12 consecutive Fastnet Races, back to back, without any

Lawrie Smith, bidding to become the first outright British winner in the big-budget Silk down the hatches, and wait for Cut, says that, on the shorter it to abate. In the southern legs, there will be no opportu- ocean you are going downhill, nity for any structured sleep at all, and this on 60-foot boats generating huge amounts of power and requiring fierce focus on extracting maximum speed every inch of the way. Drop for even a moment and the ever-watchful computer will squawk a warning.

From being as much an adventure as a test of endurance when it began in 1973, the race has developed a grand prix status, with professional competitors driving equipment, enjoying research programmes sometimes as complex as Formula One race cars. Having reached this level of international professionalism the race is now leaving the UK to be run in Sweden and Brussels by Volvo in 2001, if they stick to the four-year timetable. Everything the route and the boats to be

Race director Ian Bailey-Willmot says he is disappointed with a turnout of 10. He believes there should have been 15, but he is more than satisfied with the presence of Dennis Conner for the second time, Paul Cayard for the first time, and a clutch of big names both as skippers and crews who draw on the best from an international pool.

The course has been changed to allow a return to Cape Town, racing in the world to the start a shift from Uruguay to Brazil, a second stopover in the United States and the inclusion of France, which then provides a sprint finish. Gales and ice remain a hazard on the runs from South Africa to Australia, and from New Zealand round Cape Horn. The shorter legs will provide an intensity that will be equally draining. This is no arena for ama-

teurs. This is no race in which, when the winds grow violent, you strap everything in, batten driving the boat right up to the edge of its capabilities, risking the sort of serious wipe-out that can rip the mast right out

There is no one down there to launch a lifeboat. The competitors have to rely on each other, as they did last time when the Italian yacht Brooksfield was taking water. And you have to keep pushing to eain those vital vards which mean places, and therefore points, at the finish.

All the previous six races have been decided on accumumiles. This time there is virtually a series of nine races and it will be consistency in them that will decide the winner; the time, system is that one bad leg to £15m sponsorship.

is up for discussion, including need not cost any boat the whole race.

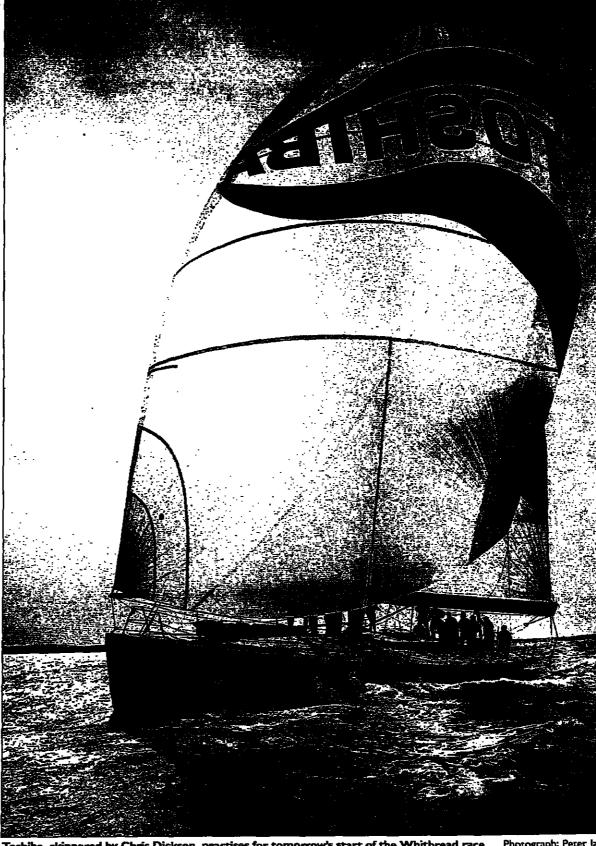
> The new format, coupled with the relegation of the old maxis and the use only of Whitbread 60s, has led many to believe there will be permanent cat and mouse game as the whole fleet shadows each other. But Merit Cup skipper Grant Dalton thinks there will be major differences in speed, especially over the first leg.

> The deciding factor will be the success of the programmes to develop fast sail designs. The sails deliver the power, but they are also the gearbox of the yacht. Their development will continue right to the end. The right shape and size is crucial, sailing the boat at the optimum angle to deliver maximum power adds to the conundrum, and those that can achieve both, as well as having all the right clubs in the bag as conditions change, will be the winners.

Assuming they do not suffer from gear damage. Both the race favourite, Chris Dickson who skipper's Conner's boat, and his greatest rival, Smith, are willing to push both yachts and crews very hard. Any miscalculation and both Dalton and Gunnar Krantz in Swedish Match will be waiting to pounce. These are good times for

Smith, whose 2000 America's

Cup hopes have been given a considerable boost this week. The Spirit of Britain syndicate, which is challenging New Zealand through the Royal Dorset Yacht Club, announced major design and technology backing from the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, Bristol University's Aerodynamics department, the Paralated time for the whole 31,000 metric Technology Corporation and Silocon Graphics. For syndicate chairman, Prof Andrew Graves of Bath University, the heavyweight credibility bonus of a points, rather than should smooth the search for up



Toshiba, skippered by Chris Dickson, practises for tomorrow's start of the Whitbread race

Power, grace and a real

Errol Flynn steering wheel

bereasting" in real time once the competition proper starts, with hole-by-

hole updating of scores and a promised audio link to Radio 5 Live, star of the 95 Ryder Cup. Features include a breakdown of the course. with an aerial overview of each hole plus Seve Ballesteros' ideas on how to play it. There is the official

programme, with articles by writers such as Ian Wooldridge, Hugh McIlvanney, Peter Dobereiner and Michael McDonnell. the match format, records of every player who has played in the competition and detailed profiles of this year's contestants. There are also sections

devoted to news, features and trivia. CBS Sportsline is more americentric as one would expect, with only details on the American team, although golf.com, which is linked to NBC sports and Golf Digest, presents a more balanced view. GolfWeb is another good site, with all the features one expects plus an odds section. Golf on Line is the web site for Golf Maguzine with its articles. The US PGA tour site seems to be completely insular and is ignoring the Cup altogether, while the European tour site gives a link to GolfWeb.

Golf in Spain is mainly for the golf tourist, playing or watching, with player profiles and course details. The Sporting Life site has Ian Woosnam providing his personal assessment of the Ryder Cup. the American team and a hole-by-hole guide to Valderrama and will be doing live scoring. That is the real test and from Friday we will see how each site keeps the scores for each match up-to-date.

ADDRESSES

Official Ryder Cup site http://www.rydercup.co Golf in Spa

Golf on Line http://www.g dercup/ Sporting Life - Edward Ableson

BOAT-BY-BOAT GUIDE

Silk Cut (GB): Britain's best chance by according to skipper Laurie Smith who position of greater control, a crew he the bit between his teeth and a tight-knit crew Joint Idvourse with Chris Dickson. Merit Cup (Monaco): Skipper Grant

Dalton talks up his administrative skills and leaves the sailing plaudits to crew and navigator Mike Quiter. He is tough, confident about a two-book develop programme, and has shown speed where it matters. A top three banker. Brunel Sunergy (Netherlands): An almost unknown quantity with one of the two non-Bruce Farr boats and a team with aimost a corinthian look. Their funded boat, from the Ger Dutch team of Friedrich Judel and Roll

Vrolijk, has yet to impress, but they have a new keel buib and rudder and raplacement skipper Hans Bousholte is hooling for success in heavier air legs. very strong early on and then slipped in the ratings a little. But the addition of Franchman Pierre Mas is a big plus and in Marcel van Triest skieder Krut Fros has a nevigator not atraid of big ons. The crew is strong, but may find themselves in the second peloton. ectsh Match (Sweden): Of all the teams picking up pace as they approx the start, this is the quickest, with the influence of Kiwi hard man Erie Will

most noticeable. This is not a boat of

rs have been ready to spend

management by consent but by uncompromising example and their

EF Education (Sweden): The all-womer approach is proving a hard challenge for a crew with a strong French influence. Sidpoer is Christine Guillou, navigator Christine Briand, Marie-Claude Klatter ssier for the last two. Wanted to increase crew to 14 to compensate for edmitted leck of equal strength. EF Language (Sweden): Generous tunded, their reward has been a

logue of grief. Lost, won, then lost Lewrie Smith as skipper, plus many crew Lost two more key players and then had now over delecting navigator as alopper Chessia Recing (US): What looked to some like a rich man's whim has seen

Andrews' design is significantly quicker Tochibe (US): Joint-favourite with Smi for the sellors, if not the bookles, as the management skills of Dennis Conner combine with the telent of Chris Dickson Sure to have original ideas on sail design, including Cuben fibre mains. Dickson's ablify ent manager George Collins turn on's ability to drive fast when on the

Bay into a hard-edged team. Guests ik

Gevin Brady, John Kostecki, Dee Smith and Mike Toppe added to crew with

Americas Challenge (US): Dark horses

sidocer Ross Field has taken charge of

sail with only it as he turns a last-minu

tash into an art torm. They say Alan

urned maverick colts. Last time's winning

deceptive strength could ember some of the higher profile rivals.

It is not often that you get to hold £3m, but here I am surging down the Solent at the helm of an ocean-going yacht. And not just any old standard sea skimmer that a well-heeled sailor could buy at the Boat Show. This is Toshiba, 60ft of wave warrior, which when you add on the costs of a ninemonth race around the globe

will have swallowed up the best

Only the top yachtsmen

in the world are to be

found on a Whitbread

yacht, so the chance for

a landlubber to talk jibs

and genoas with the best

Nick Duxbury slipped on his

was too good to miss.

deck shoes and joined

Toshiba for a day.

part of £8m. In truth, the Kiwi Chris Dickson, if not the world's top skipper then close to it, is at my elhow and the America's Cup legend Dennis Conner at my back, but that just adds to the responsibility for someone who learned all he knows about sailing from Rod Stewart. Right now, this would be a serious amount of kit and personnel to tip into the drink.

"Have you steered a boat before?" asks Dickson, who like most of the crew has one of those leather-tan faces that has been preserved in salt. Well, yes and no. I've held a dinghy tiller in my time, but never a real wheel of the sort that Errol Flynn would have given his best cutlass to be lashed to. "Right. drive it like a car then. Keep 50ft to the right of that red buoy and

keep the angle at 27 degrees. The first command is easy enough, for Toshiba, with mainsail and spinnaker raised, is remarkably responsive as though fitted with power steering. Avoiding the buoy is simple when you are a long way off, but a certain nervousness creeps in as the boat rapidly closes and need we have to go so near?

The degrees bit is to do with keeping the angle of lean constant, Dickson does not like it to fluctuate and soon he is ordering small adjustments. The buoy reached, it's time to tack. "That will do," says Dickson, taking control as the 20 people on board prepare to scramble from one side to the other while Toshiba turns.

With the start barely five days away, you might have expected the crew to be edgy and have little time for jolly jaunts with the

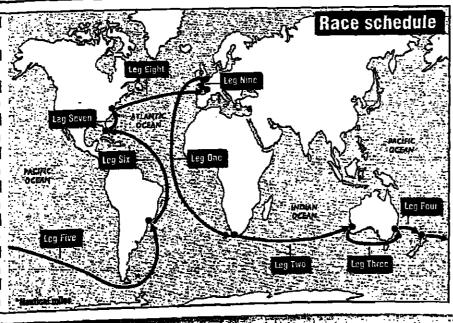
press. However, they could not have been more relaxed as they use the cruise to hone their skills - going through seven sail changes in two hours, accompanied by much intent gazing upwards. Even Conner, who has a reputation for being a sometimes prickly character, is at his most affable, despite his luggage not having followed him to Southampton from a weekend regatta in Sardinia.

"I'm sorry it's not cold, foggy and wet like you're used to. was the big American's welcome as we left the dock at Ocean Village, "We've got a San Diego day for you.' A good wind and a hazy sun

made conditions perfect, and as we slipped past a huge container ship being led like a puppy by a tug, Toshiba dipped her port side and gathered speed. The Solent looks vast, but it is not big enough for a thoroughbred to be given her head. Even so, she moved with power and grace.

Heading back to London, an accident on the M3 closed the motorway. Sitting in my tin can, firmly anchored amid a wash of petrol furnes by a 10mile traffic jam south of Bracknell, a thought strikes home...if only I had £3m.

Southampton-Cape Tow 1,270 1 February 1998 23 February 199 6,570 4.750 19 April 1998 22 April 1998



HOCKEY

MacDonald adds power to Slough

Slough, the National League champions, travel to Southport to play Hightown in today's opening match of the season, strengthened by the inclusion of the Great Britain and Scottish international Sue MacDonald.

England's Lucy Cope returns jury problems. Absent will be Karen Brown and Helen Thorand Sally Eyre, who is taking a year out to complete her studies.

Hightown's England junior internationals Caroline Gilbert and Helen Grant have moved to cy Fry are back in training. Olton Terraquest while Maggie

Souvave has retired. Newly promoted Olton are likely to be short of Mandy but hope to have all their Under-21s available after the

World Junior Cup in Seoul with the exception of Lucilla Wright, who is resting.

Lucy Youngs has taken over the captaincy of Ipswich, disappointed that in spite of the good showing in both League and Cup last season and a Silver medal in after missing last season with in- the European Championships they have been unable to attract new players. It will be difficult nalley, recovering from injuries, to fill the gap left by the retirement of Vicky Dixon but the good news is that the former English internationals and past captains Sandie Lister and Tra-

Loughborough Students, newly promoted to Division One, will be strengthened with the arrival of Kate Sharland Gatherer with an injured back from Leicester and Ireland's



Damon Hill (right) talks with a mechanic before practice for the Austrian Grand Prix yesterday

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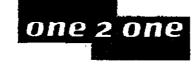
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'Hijacked' Hill prophet comes back to earth

his move to Jordan before returning to the Arrows camp for yesterday's official practice session for the Austrian Grand Prix. Derick Allsop in Zeltweg reports on the build-up to tomorrow's race.

Damon Hill could not have stage-managed it better for visual effect. He said he was on his bike from Arrows to Jordan, and good as his word, there he was, riding away from his stricken car That interruption to practice for taking on the best. tomorrow's Austrian Grand Prix here came after Hill had been formally introduced as Jordan's driver for the next two seasons, a deal said to be worth £10m to

the Englishman. have the time to wait for Arrows' fulfilment, and he and his new boss, Eddie Jordan, now anticithe world championship.

Jordan revealed that he had down a year ago, and that they effectively reached an agreement in "bizarre" circumstances following the Italian Grand Prix a fortnight ago.

travel back with Arrows' owner, Tom Walkinshaw, but missed the camp to prepare for tomorrow's flight. When Jordan stepped on race and completed the day's to his sponsor's plane, he found an extra passenger and the chat took an inevitable course. ...

Jordan said; "Unbeknown to, me, our pilot offered Damon a lift and the first I knew was when I got on board. By the time we got home, the deal was more or less done. You could say we hijacked each other."

According to Jordan, he was not in a position to make an announcement at that stage be- 10th and Johnny Herbert, of cause he had a date in the High Court with Benetton over the services of the Italian driver Giancarlo Fisichella. Jordan admits he expected to lose the case but hoped he might retrieve some financial compensation that would help pay the bill for Hill.

Jordan's sponsors had already increased their contribution to the budget and Mugen-Honda, the team's engine partners from next season, had given their approval. When the court's ruling went against Jordan, Hill told Walkinshaw he would not be staying and Ar-

rows signed Mika Salo. Hill said: "My choice of team will provide me with the

races and challenge for the championship. Jordan have established themselves in the upper echelons of Formula One and they have employed me to take the final step.

"We have had a lot of difficulties at Arrows, but I am full . of admiration for their determination and professionalism. They have a long-term future, but I'm not getting any younger. and I have to get on."

Hill will partner Ralf Schuold adversary Michael, and the drivers will have equal status. Jordan believes the German will be a willing pupil and form an in search of something better. effective partnership capable of

Jordan said: "We desperately needed a driver of Damon's. stature. Now we have the perfect blend of a successful, expenenced driver and an up and coming rookie. Raif is bound to listen Hill said he felt he did not to a man who has won 21 races and the world championship.

"We have hired Damon to win races and the championship pated forging a partnership that for us. No other reason. If we would win races and challenge for don't win races next year it will be a very bitter blow.

"I didn't have to eat humble never lost contact with Hill af- pie in going back for Damon. ter their negotiations broke Last year we weren't financially in a position to do a deal with him. This year we are. By concentrating on technical development we made it possible to make our priority this year the Hill had an arrangement to signing of a driver like Damon.

Hill returned to the Arrows practice in 11th place. At the top of the time-sheets were Williams-Renault's Heinz-Harald Frentzen and Jacques Villeneuve. Michael Schumacher, who leads Villeneuve by 10 points in the standings, was a less comfortable seventh in his Ferrari. David Coulthard, winner of Italian Grand Prix, was sixth in a McLaren Mercedes. Eddie Irvine, in the other Ferrari was Sauber-Petronas, was 12th.

Benetton announced yesterday that Austrian Alexander Wurz will partner Fisichella next season, leaving a questionmark over Gerhard Berger's Formula One future.

BASKETBALL

Clampdown on swearing

The basketball authorities, mindful of their family sport image and increasing live television coverage, have directed referees in the Budweiser and National Leagues to clamp down on swearing by players and coaches.

Mike Smith, the Budweiser League's chief executive, said: Over recent years it's become an increasing problem in sport generally and we've seen an increase in basketball. We want to protect the positive things about our image.'

The often violent physical confrontations in basketball and split-second decisions by officials offer plenty of potential

for tempers to boil. The prox-

imity of the team benches to spectators means that most comments can be heard by at least some of the crowd.

Sky Television's Sunday night live coverage is particularly vulnerable to picking up the "audible obscenities" that referees have now been ordered to listen out for. Violations will be punished by technical fouls, with the possibility that repeated offenders could be thrown out of the game.

England international Ronnie Baker, who hopes to play on : the Continent this season, is expected to make his debut for Manchester Giants tonight against London Towers. - Richard Taylor

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

It just all went pear-shaped, in a nutshell. Welsh driver Gwyndaf Evans on his exit from the Manx Raily after a bad accident. As soon as I found out it was 2,624 miles away I knew it was not possible. It would take three lays to get him there that way and three days to get back. It would be stupid to subject him to that

He might as well be going by bike

Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger ruling out a land and sea trip for Dennis Bergkamp, who

hates flying, to the match with PAOK Salonika.

 I called him a potato in Punjabi because he is a little fat for a layer: Indian cricket fan Shilva Kumar Thind, who filed a complaint

with police after the Pakistani batsman inzamam Ul-Haq allegedy attacked him during the Sahara Cup clash in Toronto having been taunted over a megaphone.

 Anyone who does not feel ture or any weakness in

oi don't think i have seen a strik er who can do so many things on the ball, Ian Rush, on his team-mate Faustino Asprilla after the Colombian's hat-trick in the European Cup.

 I know the severicy of what will come at me if i make another slip. lan Wright after escapi

wook for

£ 12. 4 €

21/SPORT

RUGBY UNION

Bath's tale of prophets and loss

Brian Ashton, Clive Woodward. England may be a rugby nation sold short by its well-chronicled paucity of quality coaches, but Bath can look back on a grand tradition of successful tracksuited sorcerers. How many more can they afford to lose, though? Chris Hewett examines the price of achievement

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The blue-collar rank and file of room team that would underpin Bath's rugby industry are gathered in the Recreation Ground bar and they know bad tidings are at hand. Tony Swift, old mucker turned chief executive, casts a fraught eye over his audience and quietly informs and not got within a mile of him. them that Brian Ashton, the most accomplished club coach in the country, has resigned. The camera closes in on Jeremy Guscott as he stares blankly at the floor, affected like everyone else by an atmosphere bordering on the funereal. Another valued member of the family has

There are many revealing scenes in the BBC's enthralling fly-on-the-wall series about the most talked-about club side in the world game - the first episode goes out on 1 October - but this one catches the West Countrymen in the raw, absolutely at their lowest. It provides irrefutable proof, if any were needed, that a coach's departure can be every bit as to live with that inevitability," wounding as that of a great out- Swift agreed. "Andy Robinson side-half or an unerring goalkicker. In the currency of in fact, because he's a very, very professional rugby, coaches are good coach who is growing no longer the pound coins in the back pocket but the gold bars I can't deny that the repeated in the bank vault.

Bath confronted and suc- hits us hard." cessfully overcame the Ashton

Jack Rowell, Richard Hill, trauma nine months ago, but they now have to go through the process all over again following Clive Woodward's appointment as England's first full-time national coach. Unlike his predecessor, Woodward left on the very best of terms; his sojourn at the Rec was button bright but fleeting, far too brief to allow more than a superficial attachment. But as Swift candidly admitted earlier this week, his departure hurts. Badly.

We wanted to keep Clive on board, it's as simple as that," he said. "With him in place, alongside Andy Robinson and Jim Blair, we felt we had a worldclass set-up, the sort of backany ambitious club and provide the environment in which success could be achieved. I've said before that had Clive wanted to stay, the Rugby Football Union could have offered us a million We wouldn't have released him for any job but the one he's ac-

As a player, Swift saw Jack Rowell lured by England and watched Richard Hill, his coaching skills in their infancy but already acknowledged in the lower reaches of the national setup, down tooks and disappear to Gloucester. He also played and thrived under Ashton and was not in the least surprised when Ireland, cottoning on unusually fast to a potentially advantageous situation, snapped up the old maestro within hours of his departure from the Rec.

"It's inevitable that success on the field reflects positively on the coaching team and we've got could be next - probably will be, more effective by the day - but loss of such capable people









Andy Robinson (top right) is now coaching Bath following the departures of Clive Woodward (top left), Jack Rowell (above left), Richard Hill (above centre) and Brian Ashton (above right) Photographs: Empics and Allsport

are better equipped to survive Woodward's leave-taking than they were Ashton's resignation. By Robinson's own confession, the coaching L-plates were still pinned to his back when he found himself propelled into the No 1 role back in January. Now, after an extremely challenging and often arduous apprenticeship, he appears firmly in control; certainly, his side's grimly determined Heineken Cup victory at Pontypridd a fortnight ago bore all the bloody-minded, tough-nut hallmarks of Robbo

Robbo the fledgling tactician.

ing backline specialist of the calibre of Ashton or Woodward. When Rowell was left on his ownsome following the abrupt resignations six years ago of his partners in the original Gang of Three, David Robson and Tom Hudson, he was able to draw on the support and expertise of a small but profoundly influential coterie of senior players. Unfortunately for Robinson, there is no equivalent of a Stuart Barnes to fall back on.

Swift is adamant that Bath have identified a ready-made rethe bone-hard flanker as well as placement for Woodward - he plans to make an announcement

on the pay-roll. That would indicate one of two intriguing possibilities: a promotion for the diffident and elusive John Palmer, who is currently working with the second-string United side, or, more likely, a new role for Jon Callard, the fullback who, but for contractual difficulties, would now be director of rugby at Worcester.

Both men have coached extensively at schools level, but the similarities end there. Palmer, who won three England cans in the 1980s as a centre and might for a certain Mr Woodward, has In one important sense, Bath of an imaginative, mould-break- suggest the new boy is already tial front-line coach for years but the bold, confident exterior.

has proved impossible to pin down. Callard is more up front, more openly ambitious and is an outstanding communicator.

However Bath choose to respond to this latest manifestation of the Recreation Ground brain-drain, they need to do it quickly. The middle of a European Cup campaign is hardly the ideal time to engage in transition, seamless or otherwise, and while club has been handsomely compensated by country for the loss of Woodward's services, money has never been able

Make or break time for Cardiff and Leicester

The French and the Welsh are steering well clear of each other in this weekend's Heineken Cup programme, which is probably just as well from a public order point of view. But some big reputations are about to go on the line -Leicester, Cardiff, Swansea and Bourgoin

among them. Chris Hewett

sets the scene

Whoever produced the fixtures for the third round of European Cup pool matches was either incredibly fortunate or a fully paid-up member of the Society of Rughy Soothsavers. After the unpleasant rumbles between the Welsh and the French last weekend, the latest Heineken schedule gives clubs from both countries an opportunity to mop a fevered brow or two.

However, the competition is not in a sudden state of anaemia. Far from it. Two of last season's semi-finalists, Leicester and Cardiff, are in "must win" situaway from home and with only one team from each group guaranteed a place in the last eight, push has come to shove rather quicker than anticipated.

Sept-Deniers for an unenviable tussle with the French champions of Toulouse and with Joel Stransky in miscrable form - Bob Dwyer, the Leicester coach, has never seen the World Cup-winning stand-off in such dire nick - the Midlanders' task looks close to hopeless. "We're flying on one wing." Dwyer said yesterday.

"Toulouse will be a cauldron." So too will be the Arms Park tomorrow. Cardiff. onepoint losers in Bourgoin in the first round of matches and not entirely convincing in seeing off formance in last year's final Munster last weekend, face an have won a whole lot more but to buy stability. Once again, the unbeaten Harlequins in the one French side who can travcamera lenses are zooming in, knowledge that defeat will al- el. If they do so successfully this But he badly needs the input early next week - and insiders been talked about as a poten- searching for insecurity behind most certainly deny them an au- afternoon, it will be a minor tomatic quarter-final place.

Bourgoin, hammered by Ouins six days ago, cannot afford a second defeat either and will have to sharpen up out of all recognition if they are to survive their hazardous visit to Limcrick. They face an Irish outfit strengthened by the return of Mark McDermott at hanker and Shane Leahy at lock.

With Pool B leaders Wasps already odds on favourites to progress to the knock-out phase after two wins on the road, Swansea must see off the quick and resourceful Glasgow district side to keep their own hopes alive. It is by no means a foregone conclusion; the All Whites travel to Scotstoun tomorrow without David Weatherley. Alan Harris, Paul Arnold, Alan Reynolds and their captain, Garin Jenkins, "It will be a hard old dog-fight," the skipper predicted. Not too canine in nature. one hopes.

Pontypridd, precariously placed in both the rughy and legal senses, should prove too much of a handful for the Scottish Borders ~ in the nicest possible way, of course - but the visit to Bath of Brive, their implacable foes from last weekend, is far more difficult to weigh up. The ations following early setbacks reigning champions go in without two influential internationals. Philippe Carbonneau and Christophe Lamaison, and their current state of mind suggests that their collective heart may The Tigers travel to Les go absent without leave.

Certainly, their task will not be eased by the presence of leuan Evans on Bath's right wing: the Lions hero makes his senior debut for the West Countrymen. Buth can also call on a second international wing in Adedayo Adebayo, now fully recovered from the stress fracture of the foot he suffered during England's tour of Argentina. That allows the brilliant youngster Matt Perry to play in his favoured position of midfield alongside Phil de Glanville.

But Brive's staggering perproved conclusively they are

RUGBY LEAGUE

New look for Super League Wigan run could end in tears Bjorkman gives Sweden early lead

for a new-style Premiership mod-man, Chris Caisley, said. elled on the Australian play-offs.

10.245 watching the four ties.

Things are now almost certain to change following a recommendation by Rugby League Europe (RLE), the marketing arm of Super League.

Clubs want to copy the Ausmeeting in a series of play-offs culminating in a Grand Final.

The complex format ensures that, for a fifth-placed team to Clubs Association (Fasda) on lift the trophy, they would have to beat all four teams above body. He won a straight vote them and that none of the top three clubs can be knocked out in the first round.

games, real crowd-pullers and League clubs and Fasda each the competition would be eas- electing their own representa-

We could finish off with a The League introduced a blockbuster that would give us preliminary round, incorporat- maximum impact at the coning the bottom eight teams, for clusion of the season. It can all the first time this season but it be litted in four weeks. It's what received a massive thumbs down the Super League clubs want. from supporters, with just Only one said they needed more time to consider it."

> First Division Featherstone, has become the first elected member of the new Rugby Football League board of directors.

Wagner, who has been servtralian system, with the top five ing as a co-opted member of the existing board, was yesterday elected as the representative of the First and Second Division the reconstituted governing with Malcolm White of Swinton.

The RFL Council agreed earlier this month to a reform of "There would be some big the administration, with Super

Super League clubs are calling ier to market," the RLE chair- tives to sit alongside an inde- It was 1984 when Wigan last pendent chairman, the chief exdirector and two non-executive officials from outside the game.

Super League clubs will elect their representative on Thursday. Meanwhile, the League look the forthcoming Test series against Australia. Steve Wagner, chairman of

The League has come under fire for failing to come up with backing for the three-Test series but a spokesman said: "We are working very hard on a package. We have been talking to some major companies and negotia-

tions are ongoing."

An announcement could come at a news conference in Leeds on Monday, when the new Great Britain coach, Andy Goodway, will name his captain. The third member of the coaching team, to work alongside Goodway and Shaun McRae, is expected to be unveiled at the same time.

failed to win a major domestic ecutive, a full-time finance trophy - a fact that will add urgency to their approach when they meet Sheffield Eagles in the semi-final of the Premiership to-

Sheffield would not have set to announce a sponsor for been considered a stumbling block earlier in the season, but such is their recent improvement - culminating in a stunning 58-16 win at London last week - that it is possible to imagine it all ending in tears for Wigan.

Much of the credit must go to John Kear, who took over from Phil Larder after a poor opening to the campaign. "I think John has done a su-

perb job," his captain, Paul Broadbent, said. "He sends you out full of confidence and, once the confidence is there, the performances follow." The bedding down of new players has also helped. English

Pinkney and overseas imports,

such as Willie Morganson and Whetu Taewa, are, in Broadbent's words, "showing the ability they have and why they were brought to the club". Wigan's biggest bonus is the

return to last season's form of Henry Paul, who showed against Leeds on Monday that, when on song, there is no more potent match-winner. Simon Haughton faces a fitness test. Teams from outside Super

League also have Old Trafford in their sights tomorrow as they contest the semi-finals of the Divisional Premiership. Whitehaven have been impressive under Stan Martin, but are unlikely to cope with Hull at The Boulevard. Huddersfield's visit to Keighley is harder to predict. ● Jean-Marc Garcia, the 26year-old French international winger, has left Sheffield by mutual consent after three seasons with the Super League club and signings Martin Wood and Nick returned to France.

Camporese in a five-set battle advantage. to give Sweden a 1-0 lead over Italy in their Davis Cup semifinal in Norrkopping yester-

The veteran Italian pushed Bjorkman, a semi-finalist at the US Open earlier this month. to a first-set tie-break, but the Swede eventually prevailed 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in three hours and 24 minutes.

Thomas Engvist was due to face Renzo Furlan in the second singles, while Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti, doubles finalists at the US Open, meet Camporese and Diego Nargiso in today's doubles.

Boris Becker blasted his way past Luis Herrera in straight sets to give Germany a 1-0 lead over Mexico in their World Group qualifying round in Essen.

needed just two hours to beat because of the death of his manthe Mexican. He used the fast ager.

Jonas Bjorkman beat Omar indoor carpet surface to his full

process closing the first set 7-5 and taking a 5-0 in the second.

"I had trouble reading his serve at the beginning. But once I broke him. I took control," Becker, who had wasted two break points in the seventh game, said

The three-times Wimbledon champion cruised to hold a 5-2 lead in the third set. He dropped his serve while serving for the match but broke right back to put Germany ahead.

"I lost my concentration a bit at the end," said Becker, who has announced his retirement from Grand Slam singles play. petitively since injuring himself

Becker had not played comat a tournament in Stuttgart in Becker won 7-5, 6-2, 6-3, July, He missed the US Open

In another qualifying round match in Harare. Becker broke for a 6-5 lead Thomas Muster and Byron in the first set and then went on Black had little trouble in to win the next six games, in the their opening singles matches to leave Zimbabwe and Austria level at 1-1.

> Black bent the Austrian No 2, Gilbert Schaller, in straight sets 6-3, 6-2, 6-1. Muster's allaround power was too much for Black's younger brother Wayne. and he coasted to a 6-3, 6-0, 6-4 victory. Both matches lasted only 90 minutes each.

> Muster served 10 aces in overwhelming the secondranked Zimbabwean, also using cross-court forehand passes to great effect.

> The pattern was set early when Muster broke Black's second service game, then broke three times in the second

Black made a fight of it in the final set, but Muster pulled away from 4-4, serving out the

SPORTING DIGEST

Arhietics

swearing

Jenina Whitlock, the pole Vaulter, twice improved the British record during a meeting in Hungary. She first cleared 4.13 metres to breek the old best of 4.11 and then raised it to 4.23 to take account place.

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AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 7 Anaham 3:
Boston 3 Thombo 2; Ballimore 4 Mitwalase 5;
Detroit 9 New York Yarkese 7 171 Invinge) Criss
go Withis 80; 9 Karesas Cry 2; Climetand 4 Mitnesula 1; Seattle 6 Texas 3;
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago 4 St Louis 3;
Sarr Francisco 8 Los Angales 5 (12 Invings);
Florida 8 Phileselphia 2; San Liego 7 Colorado
g, Philipurgh 12 Houston 3; Chrimali 6 Montreal 3, Allanta 11 New York Mets 4.

Basketball Baskethall
THURSDAYS LATE RESILUTS: Man's Burol ague Championship Group At Maccobil 18 Arth 18 19 17 Limops (Fr) 92. Dee Pleas hands of Open place (Gr) 70. Group Bt Part of Open place (Gr) 70. Group Bt Open place (Group Bt Cabora 20 Part Open place (Group Bt Cabora 20 Part Open place (Group Bt Cabora 20 Part of Open place (Group Bt Cabo

British champions Gooff McCreash and Dean Francis are to fight for Eu-ropean titles after the holders of the

European Boding Union welterweight and super-middleweight titles relin-quished their positions to concentrate quished their positions to concentrate on world champlonship challenges. McCreesh will take on Michele Picchillo, of Italy, with Andrel Pestriaev having given up his BBU wellbarweight title. Plancis gets a chance at the BBU super-middleweight champlonship with Prenchman Prederic Seiller, his opponent after Andrei Shikalikov stapped down.

Cricket

Cricket
India took an unbestable 3-0 lead in
the five-match one-day 'Sahara Cup'
series against Pakistan in Toronio when
they won the third ancounter by 34
runs. Pakistan, the defending champlons, restricted india to 182 for 6 in
their 50 overs, when the match was
re-started following Wednesday's
wash-out because of rein. Pakistan collapsed to 148 all out in the 38th over.

Destroy have released 22-year-old lapsed to 148 at our in the sour over.
Durtism have released 22-year-old betsman Robin Weston, who had a top score of just 36 in 19 first-class innings. The county released another home-bred batsman, Darren Bienkron, test month but all other descriptions are heart misloard. players are being retained. Sussex have released Nicky Philips, the 23-year-old off-spinner who has been with the county since 1993, by

mutual consent. He has played in 16 first-class games, taking 23 wickets. Kent are releasing seamers Tim Wren and Nick Preston at the and of the season. When, 27, made 30 first-class appearances for the county in seven years, while 25-year-old Pre-ston has not played first-class cricket this summer.

John Owens has been appointed as the manager of the England semi-pro-fessional team following the resig-nation of Ron Reld to take up coaching duties at Oktham. Gary Gillespie, the former Scotland defender, has signed for the Icis League club Aylesbury. League Club Aylesbury.
The istimilian League have terminated their sponsorship deal with the sponsweer firm lots. A statement from the league claimed they had been experiencing difficulties with los meeting their contractual obligations.
TYPHIC CUP CLUATER Asian 2008 group & (Abs Dhebt): UAE O Japan 0.

TEXAS (PPEN (San Antonio) Landing Srat-leund scores (US unless stated): 64 G Sauers; 69 M Brishys 87 Caydon, 10 Waltorf; 67 K Forgus, 8 Cabbrige; S Jones, J Gelagher § L. Roberts, 7 (year; 69 B Junksp. P H Hor-en B. S McCarron, M Sullyan, D A Webshing,

D Toma, K Green, B Fabel, S Simpson, C Parry (Aus.), L Mariana, S Lovery, S Hart, K Conex, H Kase (Japan), B Outgley,
US LPGA WELCH'S CHAMPONSHIP (Centon, Mass.) Landing first-fround scores (US unitess stated), 57 L. Neumann (Seet), H Ruvey (Can), 68 C Wilsher, V Sidnner, D Perper,
C Johnston-Forbes, C Kerr, 69 A Miller, M Malinn, M Mackel, M Estil, B Burton, T Witcht,
K Webb (Aus.), S Waugh (Aus.), A Ridgessy, V Odegard, W Doolen, L Brower Selected, 73 S
Meynor (GB); 74 H Dobson (GB); 75 K
Cavice (GB); 76 C Marthaw (GB)
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Eulen Open
Galden (Neguri, Sibbio) Lexiling first-fround accome (GB or In unitess stated); 68 S
Learney (Aus.), 67 W Bernset, F Lington
(See), S Thring (Den.), M Lundberg (See), 88 R
Wang, Y Deannorte Spi. 68 K Carbon's (US)
L. James, J Genta, Sp., E Street, (Ge), 70 T
Lever (Fr), B Telera (Fr), J Sota (So), C HainIng (US), J M Armil (Sp.) H Kartson (Swa), A
Pret (So), M Sard (It), Other GB or int 7: 8
Brown, D Llyrn, D Macrooft, 72 G Own, R Whitester, 22 G Murphy.

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Int Sanin 44sec; 2 T Medicine (Fin) Masabeh
1:38:5; 3 J Kendeumen (Fin) Ford 1:38:29; 4
C Barra (Sp) Ford 1:38:5; 5 K Erlesson (Sue)
Subaru 1:400; 5 R Barras (35) Masabah
1:40:40, 7 D Auriol (Fin) Expost 1:40:4; 5
Koramit Singh (Malay) Postan 1:45:5; 8 Y RJimpo Japon (Japon) Postan 1:45:5; 10 Y Katacka
Lapan (Japon) Sassabah 1:45:5; 10 Y Katacka

Castieford's Australian centre Adrien Vowles, 25, has signed a new one-year contract with the Super League Culo. Rugby League Snooker

CATCH CHINA INTERNATIONAL SUPER CHALLENGE (Peking) Semi-lanais: S Davis (Eng) bi J Wassens (Trai) 8-1 J White (Eng) bit R O'Sullivan (Eng) 5-0: Speedway THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Promier League: Steffetd 50 late of Wight 40.

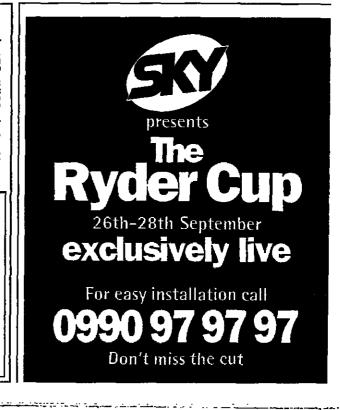
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AITUREN GRAND TOURINAMENT (Roleyo)
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Tennis NGESS CUP WOMEN'S TOURKAMENT run Singles, quarter-State: A SanchezVicano (Sp) bt U Fang (Ch) 6-3 7-5, Y Basuki (Indon) bt K Po (US) 7-5 6-9; M Seles (US)
bt N Zverse, (Bels) 6-1 8-0; N Severneths
(Lapan) bt C Mentrae; Sp) 7-8 6-4
ATP SENIOR TOUR OF CHAMPIONS
(Parts) Singles, first round: G Vise (Arg) bt
JMEErros (US) 1-67-6 10-8; M Bahram (Iran)
bt B Borg (Swe) 2-6 8-3 10-8; H Laconta (Fr)
bt P Cesh (Aug) 64-84
EURO-AFRICA ZONE Group One: Budepest Hungary and Unraine lives 1-1 (Hun
first): K Barrouzity (ost to A Medvectev 2-6
2-62-6; A Savolt bt A Pibalso 6-4 6-22-66-2
WORLD GROUP GUALIFYING (Essen,
Gar): Germany lend Medico 2-9 (Germanne
first): B Becker bt L Herror 7-5 6-6-3, M

TODAY'S NUMBER 6

The number of years since Steve Davis and Jimmy White met in a snooker final. They contest the best of 11-frame Catch China International Super Challenge title in Peking



22/PHOTO-SHOOT







A summer weekend on two wheels

successive sea-

ride are near

son have a distinct advantage over other sport- PHOTOGRAPHS ing spectators. BY ROBERT For they live the dream; the motorcycles they

replicas of the machines which the professionals hurl around at modest £12,000 it is possible to ride

breathtaking velocity.

It is the key to Superbikes' popularity in Britain over the blue riband, rival, grand prix circuit. That was illustrated last month when some 60,000 spectators - British motor- with a full licence and enough cash close sport's second biggest crowd after the Formula One circus at Silverstone – aring. Manna on a motorcycle. rived at Brands Hatch on a fleet of

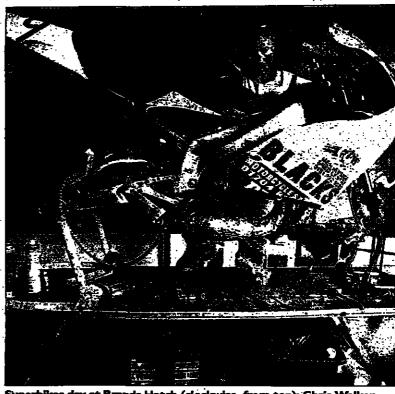
Brands Hatch on a late summer's Sun-day is two-wheel heaven. Many of the World Superbike event. Britain's most thousands who travelled to the Kent. celebrated and accomplished tider circuit last weekend to marvel as the since Barry Sheene is another reason veteran Scot, Niall Mackenzie, con- why the class's popularity has mushtinued his purple patch on a purple
Yamaha by winning the British Superbike Championship for the second

roomed over the past five years: in 500cc GPs there are no Britons riding the handbuilt, infernally overpowered

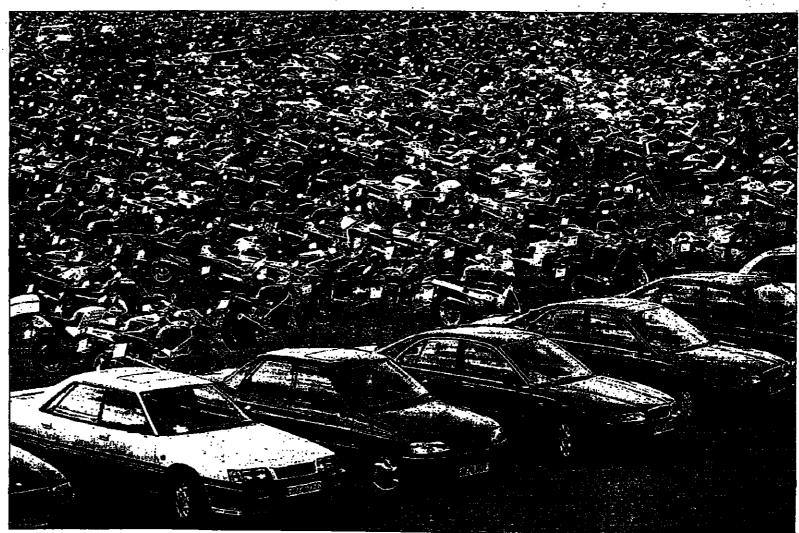
machines; in Superbikes, bulidog Carl beats allcomers with metronomic regularity. And after **HALLAM** cheering the Blackburn Bullet to victory, for a relatively

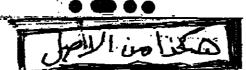
> away from the circuit on a facsimile of his scarlet Ducati 916 dream machine. If watching sport is a vicarious ex-perience, then the latest Italian, British and Japanese road bikes bring anyone ing. Manna on a motorcycle.

— Andrew Martin

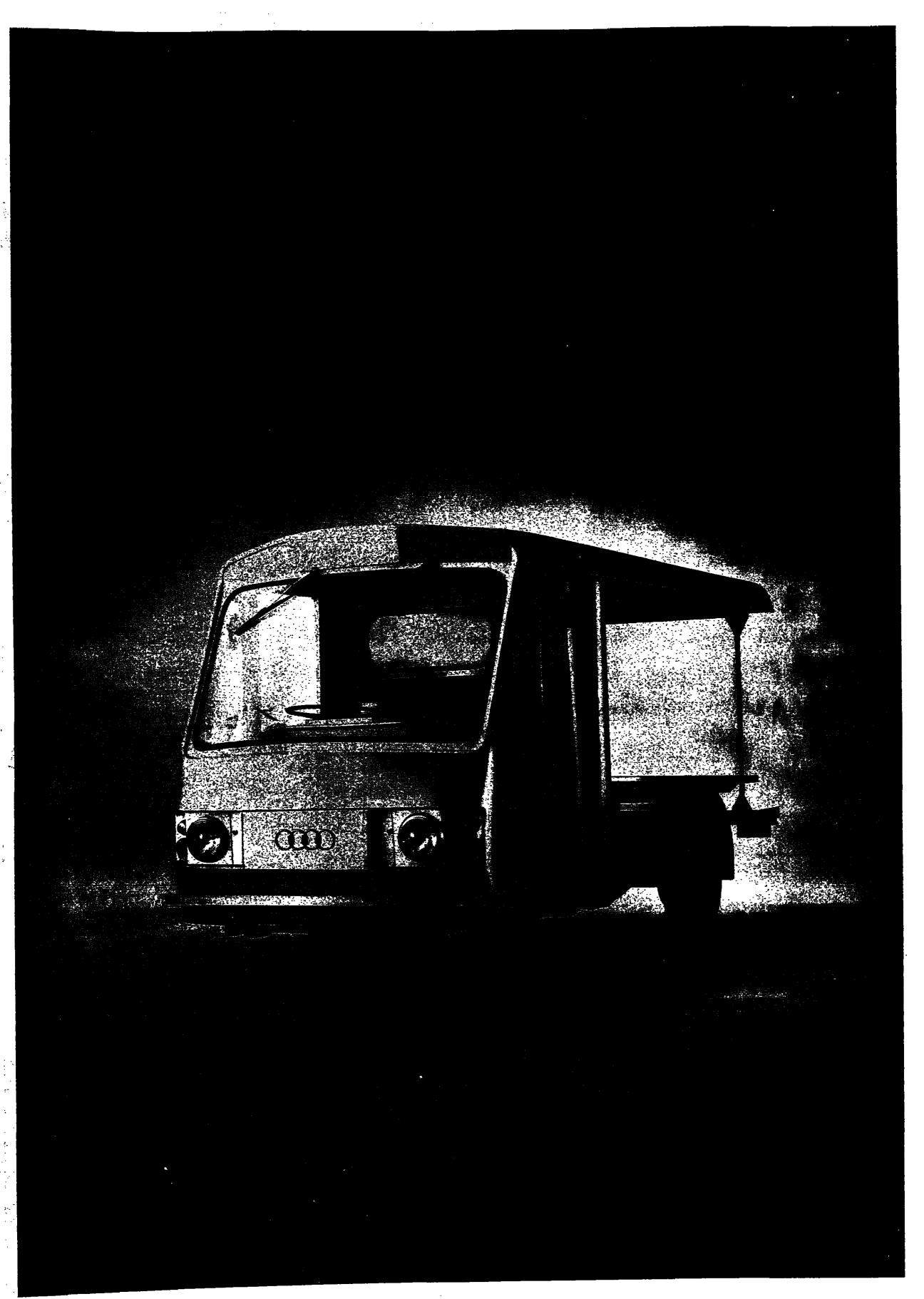


Superbikes day at Brands Hatch (clockwise, from top): Chris Walker leads the field round Druids bend on the first lap of the second British Superbikes Championship race; Eric Jones prepares his son Paul's machine for the Shell Advance 125 British championship event; two-wheels heavily outnumber four in the car park; a novel way to keep helmets safe; and lan Simpson rides high on his Ducati in the first Superbikes race.





JAVIGO 150



Can we race now?

Audi's quattro technology is so superior it's been banned worldwide from the 1998 Touring Car Championships. To even things up perhaps we should race something with three wheel drive. Ernie the Milkman is on standby.

Vorsprung durch Technik

'Mick was a man of his time and bestrode it like a Hercules'



THE **GAFFER TAPES**

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE PREVIEW

This weekend's matches

implications for several

managers. Phil Show takes

which carry the danger

Fabrizio Ravanelli is to return

from Italy following the failure

not in time to ease Middles-

brough's injury woes as they play

team vying for the First Division

player's position with the chair-

man, Steve Gibson. Today, Rob-

who missed the Coca-Cola Cum

without as many as 10 players.

Ravanelli does not belong to

of premature ageing.

could have tonsorial

a look at the games

Big Mick was one of the leg- mans while his counterparts the great managers at the Old their tape recorders were not endary figures, but his team were struggling. There were two schools of thought about this. One held that far from losing his touch he'd built a useful side at The Old Comfield. while turning the club around from bankruptcy and building the country's best youth system. They were only bottom, pointless and goalless because of a series of unfortunate injuries, poor refereeing decisions and downright bad luck. This was the view I held.

The other theory was that Big Mick was a relic from the days when the coach was a vehicle not a visionary. When a sheepskin coat, a handful of cans - flat rather than inwords of Anglo-Saxon were all thumbing through the Roth-

Tough day for the

grey-hair brigade

of transfer talks with Milan, but ford. A draw would suit him

Bryan Robson said that Ra-club face especially important

vanelli had assured him he fixtures. Peter Reid's Sunder-

would be back at the Riverside land, having highlighted the

Stadium next week. The Boro volatility of the section by win-

manager will then discuss the ning 4-0 at Bradford and 1-0 at

son welcomes back Paul Merson, three points off pole position.

defeat of Barnet, but could be wich leak four goals without re-

the "grey hair club", which of trying to halt Manchester

would be surprising had Kevin City's mini-revival.

host to a Birmingham City at The Hawthorns.

Keegan not coined the expres-

sion to describe the effects of

management. Chris Kamara,

who has yet to display the out-

ward symptoms, currently sits on

top of the table but could find

his Bradford City side not even

in the play-off zone by the time

they play at Charlton tomorrow.

terest in West Brom v Swindon.

the clubs directly below Brad-

nicely, although they have not

managed one in seven meetings

Two of the more literally-

minded members of Keegan's

Birmingham, now receive a

Wolves side themselves only

ply at home to Charlton in

midweek, has the onerous task

Mike Walker, who saw Nor-

Kamara will take keen in-

were checking airline timetables. The only videos he watched were on his own with a can of lager on channel 24 in his hotel room, not with the back five and an isotonic drink. Mick had to go before he took sure he would've understood I the club, and its share price, down for good. This was the view I told Sir Hirem Firem when we co-incidentally met at his golf chib last week.

Still, I was surprised when Mick called me this morning in tears to say he'd got the sack. I'd have liked to have lent a sympathetic ear, but I had Sir Hirem on call waiting so I told Mick I'd put in a good word for him if the chance arose.

ternational - and a few choice to do that within hours at the press conference. "When the history books are written "Big lit up when I said that last bit

The Norwich manager looks

a model of security compared

with Stockport's Gary Megson

and Huddersfield's Brian Hor-

ton. Their teams, occupying

the bottom two places and with-

out a League win, face each oth-

er at Edgeley Park, where the

natives are reportedly restless.

for his Oxford debut against

Sheffield United, 48 hours after

the FA charged him with break-

Chris Waddle could be for-

given for wishing he had joined

Nottingham Forest last spring.

Burnley have provided a night-

marish start to what few doubt-

ed would be a glittering career

in management - one goal in sev-

en Second Division games - al-

though history offers hope today.

ston at Turf Moor have not pro-

duced a 0-0 draw. What's more,

Waddle has a new striker -

Gerry Creaney, on loan from

Manchester City - while Preston

conceded six at Blackburn in the

week. It may not quite be time

Forty-nine derbies with Pre-

ing its rules on betting.

Bruce Grobbelaar is in line

Cornfield," I said. "He was a working: "I tell you lads, Tve man of his time and bestrode been called into some tricky it like a Hercules." I'm sure Mick will have been touched by that, he always

liked those Italian players. I'm was only trying to be honest when I was forced to add: "However, the game has moved on and this club has to do the same. Sir Hirem, understandably in view of Big Mick's achievements, stood by his manager a little too long. Not Sir Hirem should be blamed, loyalty is much undervalued in football today and I just hope I can save him. from paying for it by clearing True to my word I was able up the awful mess Mick has landed me with."

I could see the press boys Mick" will go down as one of so I had to add, slowly in case seems Shaun Prone, England's

jobs in my time, but this is the worst. We may have only Cliff Phace. played five matches but already a very hard season is ahead of us and merely surviving will be

the 1987 promotion I gained with Blackfarm Rovers." They were scribbling away now, so I finished with: "I'm going to need all my experience. I've learned a lot in this game, from Bill Shankly, Ron Knee and, dear Big Mick himself, and I'm going to need to draw on all of it. Now, who wants some

an achievement to rank with

of this champagne." After a few glasses with some of my old muckers, and some non-attributable examples of Mick's neglect, I had a quick word with the physio. It

elnet

has been injured for two years, should be back on Saturday. So should centre-half and captain

Ego Massive, the wayward Paraguayan striker, is back from World Cup duty and goalkeeper Ivor Panic's suspension is over. Since we've played the top five clubs already, things are definitely looking up.

Oh, there was a good omen too. No mention in dispatches in yesterday's "bung" inquiry. Not that I was nervous, mind you, but one or two generous gestures in the past may have been mis-interpreted. Must go, the mobile's ringing and I think it's my contact in

Barry Gaffer was talking to

SIDELINES

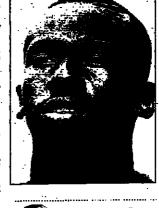
Everybody needs good neighbours

Wimbledon and Palace were snuggling up in terms of trading personnel long before they started cohabiting at Selhurst Park.



As long ago as 1931, Palace signed Howard Barnes and Oswald Parry from the amateurs of Plough Lane. John Cartwright, later a top FA coach, took the opposite route 32 years later, but the recent, almost incestuous relationship started at boardroom level. Ron Noades, having steered Wimbledon into the League, became Palace chairman in 1980. After he went back for manager Dario Gradi, players began moving between the clubs like neighbours popping round for a cup of sugar. Glyn Hodges, Steve Ketteridge and Steve Galliers set the trend, the latter soon switching back. Eric Young and Andy Thorn also went from SW19 to SE25, Thorn going via Newcastle before returning to Wimbledon from Palace. Dave Bassett, who had guided Wimbledon into the top flight, did little to maintain the tradition while in charge of Palace, where former Dons captain Ray Lewington remains as coach. Given the "immutable law of the ex" decrees that players invariably score against their old club, Palace should pay special heed today to Neil Sullivan's booming kicks, the Wimbledon keeper having swapped camps for a solitary loan appearance five years ago.

Ten things that Derby County's Costa Rican Paulo Wanchope might be missing



HOME today

Rica has more than 750 exotic varieties. 2 A cup of Dorado. Coffee is the major product of the "Rich Coast". 3 The "eternal spring" climate of San Jose: 85 degrees year round and sunny. Much like Derby's, really, with warmth and sunshine added. 4 Gallo pinto (literally

1 Butterflies. Costa

"speckled rooster"), the national staple dish of rice and beans. 5 Rainforests with parrots, monkeys, iguanas, pumas and the unique

golden toad, said to re-

semble Jim Smith but with only two chins. 6 Bullfighting: a compassionate variety, in which bulls are never killed. 7 Guaro, the local firewater. The strongest home-brew varieties act as aphrodisiacs to those they don't kill. 8 Playa Uva, a glorious surfing beach. 9 The Arenal volcano. whose red-hot rock showers illuminate the night sky, rather like the Pride Park floodlights (except when Wimble-

frection v Barmsim

👣 far from

don visit).

10 Earthquakes.

Joy and commitment form partnership in pursuit of acceptance

FAN'S EYE **VIEW**

No 224 WOMEN'S **FOOTBALL** BY LORRAINE **ASHARD**

AROUND

WORLD

RUPERT

METCALF

THE

brother's response when he icarnt that I'd taken up football. A Philistine's description of the "Beautiful Game," I agree, but not as predictable as the usual "women can't play football". And it plagues me because most people that say that "women can't play football" have never witnessed a women's football match. After ure for a women's footy match never exceeds five, and that includes the ref and linesmen. You might occasionally spot one dedicated to the women's game. man and his dog loitering on the sidelines - his dog being his alibi should anyone catch him ac-

tually watching the game. But while most find the concept of a woman playing football little more than a novelty, to some it is an unwelcome aberration, an affront to the One only dare mention the

grown men turn into Alf Garnet, spouting indignation in the difference in physique. every direction.

coming more receptive to women's football. It may be a sign of the times that a leading sports manufacturer included a women's match in its recent advertising campaign. There are also football boots, designed exall, the average attendance fig- clusively for women, if the makers are to be believed. We even have our own publication, On the Ball, a monthly magazine

On a personal level, I was invited to play for my works team (all male, of course). Normally, I would never play with or against men, but on this occasion I jumped at the opportunity because I knew I could gain a rare insight into the men's game. So, what exactly very masculinity of the sport. are the differences? I noticed within the first two minutes that

"Twenty-two blokes kicking a word "football" and "women" I couldn't hope to keep pace in the same sentence and with the lads. Even the unfittest caused a problem because of

to reach for the Grecian 2000. Fabrizio Ravanelli: Due back at Middlesbrough next week

rery direction. So unless you happen to be However, people are be- Lightning from Gladiators, you'll never be able to match a man for power. As a result of this deficit, I was left standing whenever an opponent used a turn of pace on me. I bandied with the idea of "taking him out" (and I don't mean for a spot of lunch), but decided against this as I suspected I'd come off a lot worse.

But this doesn't mean that women don't tackle. Football is a physical game, whether it be men or women, and tackling is unavoidable. I stuck my foot in front of an oncoming forward bearing down at goal, "bear" being the operative word and, mates, I had nicked the ball, a cariously balanced on their la Bobby Moore. It was stu- chest, but this seems more an pidity more than judgement, advantage than a hindrance to but I'd proved I could tackle. me. I will concede that there Game", man or woman.

The uninitiated sometimes are some women who pose ask me if women possess the more of a threat to themselves technical capabilities needed, namely heading and chesting the ball. I'll freely admit that I've seen girls shy away from an aerial challenge, preferring to relinquish possession. However, I've also seen many men do exactly the same. Personally, I love heading the ball. It re-

preference than gender. Chesting seems to cause the most curiosity among the sceptical. Can we do it? Does it hurt? It's as easy for me to chest the ball as any man - possibly because I have the same size chest. For the more generously endowed, it works the same way. It doesn't hurt, as long as you do it right. I have seen some women run for sevto the delight of my team- eral yards with the ball pre-

ally is more to do with personal

than the opposition, their ample cleavage threatening to knock them out every time they run. But there's nothing a good sports bra won't fixt

Photograph: Empics

For the perversely interested who ask how the manager gets on in the dressing-room should he be a bloke. Well, it's simple. He knocks on the door

before entering. The women's game really does have the same ingredients as the men's - flowing football, full-blooded tackles and spectacular goals (sometimes). So, while we strive for acceptance in the game, we play, not for momentary gain, but for the sheer joy of it. I'm confident anyone who's worked with a women's team will tell you women are totally committed. We don't want to beat you at your game, we want to join you. God bless all those who love the "Beautiful

Ghana's coach, Emmanuel

Afranie, did not comment on

Jorge Valdano lost his job as

coach of Valencia this week -

because he cannot count. In

Sunday's 2-1 defeat to Celta

Vigo Valdano wrongly intro-

duced a fifth foreigner as a sub-

stitute, was forced to remove

him by the referee, and had to

watch his side complete the

game with 10 players. "I ask for

forgiveness because I am the

dano said. In vain...

Santisteban's accusations.

NAME OF THE GAME No 1: SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Sheffield Wednesday are the only major club in Britain to take their name from a day of the week. The fifth oldest club in the F emiership or Football League, they were formed in 1867 by members of the Sheffield Wednesday Cricket Club, who met on Wednesday halfholidays. The name stuck until they became Sheffield Wednesday in 1929.



On 21 September 1974, Manchester United beat Bristol Rovers 2-0 to retain their spot at the top of the Second Division, while Blackburn Rovers were in eighth place - in the Third

Division. Queen's Park Rangers, still reeling from the sale of captain Terry Venables to Crystal Palace, lost to 2-1 to Newcastle. Newcastle's Malcolm Macdonald said afterwards that QPR's Stan Bowles (a fellow England international) had been deliberately trying to get Newcastle players in: trouble with the referee. "Football is coming to something when a player does that to a fellow professional. He's become a cry baby," he said. a petition, which was deliv-Bobby Charlton, playermanager of Third Division

HISTORY

Forget Vinnie Jones and Ian Wright. When it comes

to indiscipline surely nobody

could match Frank Barson,

who played for Barnsley,

Aston Villa, Manchester United, Hartlepools United and Wigan Borough. Suspended at least 12 times in his career, Barson was regularly disciplined by his own clubs. On one occasion he was even said to have pulled a gun on his

manager at Aston Villa. Barson's notoriety reached a high in 1928, when he was banned for six months for kicking an opponent while playing for Watford. Five thousand fans took up his cause by signing ered to an unsympathetic Football Association by the mayor of Watford. The petender for the Footballer of tition was ceremonially burned in his presence.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

Tore Pedersen (St Paul to Black-Paul Shaw (Arsenal to Milwall) Mark Fish (Lazio to Bolton) Milke Whitlow (Lalcester to Bolton) Paul Wilkinson (Bernsley to Milwall) Leon Townley (Tottenham to Brent-

Preston, was named as a con-

the Month Award.

lam Pearce (Blackburn to West Ham)

Paul Bodin (Reading to Wycomba)

Kevin Gage (Preston to Hut)
David Plahar (Montrose to East Fife) Contributors: Phil Shew, Nick Harris, Paul Newman Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk.: The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Now Maradona wants to emigrate to Cuba Argentina The 36-year-old scored

Despite launching yet another comeback last weekend, Diego Maradona declared on Thursday that his retirement is imminent once more - and that he wants to defect to

gentina, said: "I'm close to retiring. I'd go to Cuba for Fidel [Castro], the warm climate and because I get on very well with the Cubans." He frequently visits Cuba and counts Castro, the country's leader, as failed a drugs test. a close friend.

from the penalty spot as his club, Boca Juniors, beat Newell's Old Boys 2-1 in Buenos Aires last Sunday. Maradona had been provisionally suspended by the Argentine Football Association after failing a drugs test which followed Maradona, who played in Boca's first game of the season, two World Cup finals for Ar- but last week a federal court ordered the ban to be lifted pending an investigation into the test sought by his lawyer. It was the third time Maradona, who has served two 15-month suspensions since 1990, had

Wednesday, when a Buenos Aires appeals court rejected his plea to be judged by a federal court for wounding journalists with an air-gun in 1994. The case will now be heard by a provincial court, which is more likely to impose a jail term rather than sentence him to do social work.

Tomorrow's final of the Fifa World Under-17 Championship in Cairo, between Brazil Maradona's sudden interest and Ghana, will be overshad-

in emigrating may well be owed by controversy. Ghana linked to what happened on beat Spain 2-1 in Thursday's semi-final - which was not a result that the Spanish coach was happy with. Juan Santisteban accused the Africans of packing their side with over-aged "I can recognize at least

eight of them who were members of the Ghanaian Under-17 team in the 1991 World Cup, which would make them 23 years old now," an angry Santisteban alleged. "But the Ghanaian team is well known for bringing older players, and professionals." He did admit only one responsible," Valthat Ghana deserved to win.

تعكنا من الاصل

United fear falling victim to the Fenerbahce factor

Following their successful European exertions, the portents are good for the chasing pack to make some headway on the Premiership's defending champions: Phil Show looks at the weekend ahead, while Nick Harris (below) analyses the programme match by

United's crown to be clutching at straws, those pursuing the Premiership leaders will put their faith in the Fenerbahce factor when Alex Ferguson's side visit Bolton today.

Last autumn, four days after beating the Turkish cham-Southampton, relinquished a 40-year unbeaten home record in Europe to Fenerbahce and went down at home to Chelsea. all in less than a fortnight.

A coincidence, perhaps, but the record reveals that three of United's five League defeats came on the back of exertions in Europe. Further evidence of

pretenders to Manchester Champions' League came at Burnden Park 18 months ago. when they also let West Ham and Middlesbrough snatch draws in the final 10 minutes.

While this week's 3-0 success in Slovakia did not stretch United unduly, the party did not touch down at Manchester until 2am on Thursday. Ferpions in Istanbul, United were guson, who has often seemed humbled 5-0 at Newcastle. to be demanding preferential They then succumbed 6-3 at treatment from the fixturemakers, is doubtless relieved that the follow-up game involves minimal travelling.

> Having said that, the United manager would not have picked a derby against a team bursting to gain their inaugural victory at the Reebok Stadium. Bolton have another, powerful incentive: town pride

Colin Todd is likely to blood

Mike Whitlow, a left-back freed by Bolton as a teenager but resigned from Leicester for £500,000 yesterday. There will also be a debut for a Wanderer called Fish - Mark of that ilk after the South African centreback's 22m move from Lazio.

Ferguson, whose strikers account for just three of United's 12 goals, could turn to the fit-again Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. Teddy Sheringham, spotted in Kosice testing his recovery from a rib injury by crashing into a tackle-bag like a rugby

prop, is also in the frame. Tuesday, tended to win their Welcome as that news will matches after Continental be for Glenn Hoddle, given the combat last season, although unavailability of Alan Shearer

over Swiss club Sion. Cup qualifier in Italy, the Eng-It should be pointed out, too. land manager might be tempt-

ed to look in on Southampton. that Newcastle had been in Budapest prior to that epic rout of Matthew Le Tissier is in the Manchester United, Now, havhome squad for the first time since breaking an elbow in ing exceeded expectations in their triumph against Catalopre-season, and a spectacular nia's representative XI, the re-entry might just put him in Geordie national team take on the reckoning for Rome. The the East End of London. West other attraction is the likely return to Liverpool's attack of Ham introduce Ian Pearce against Faustino Asprilla after Robbie Fowler, who fell out of his £2.3m move from Blackburn. favour with Hoddle before his

options began to be depleted. The capital's early challengers. Chelsea and Arsenal. Liverpool, who were emtangle tomorrow, having enbroiled in a sapping Anglodured mixed fortunes in Eu-Scottish struggle at Celtic on rope. The rival managers, Rund Gullit and Arsène Wenger, will send out line-ups largely devoid their heaviest reverse, 3-0 at of Englishmen. But exciting as severe unrest among the Good-

Premature as it may be for the the attritional effects of the was hurt by United's 6-0 stroll and possibly Les Ferdinand bottom-placed Blackburn the prospect of Gianfranco ison Park faithful. Howard for next month's crucial World Rovers, followed the 6-3 win Zola and Dennis Bergkamp Kendall knows Danny Wiloulling the strings may be, Gulprobably settle for Ian Wright emerging unscathed by con-

troversy or injury. Another sign of the times was the sight of Everton and Tottenham - self-elected mem-Newcastle blew that conceit out Coca-Cola Cup wins over surface again if they labour Scunthorpe and Carlisle reagainst Blackburn. spectively, while supposedly lesser brethren were stepping

out in Madrid and Bordeaux. Everton contest points with Barnsley for the first time in 45 years knowing that anything less than victory would prompt

son's wiles all too well from his lit's predecessor, Hoddle, would previous job, Barnsley having embarrassed Sheffield United twice last season

Spurs would have been in crisis had they not scored two late goals to win 3-2 against their Second Division visitors bers of the "Big Five" before Calls for the head of Gerry Francis, first heard during the of the water-scraping slender collapse at Leicester, could against Blackburn.

Yet the manager under the greatest pressure is David Pleat. Sheffield Wednesday took maximum noints from the first four games a year ago. but receive Coventry lying 19th and smarting from a 2-0 defeat

Aston Villa v Derby

Aston Villa's Yugoslav midfielder Sasa Curcic is likely to start his first match of the season, having impressed with his appearance as a second-half substitute against Bordeaux in Tuesday's 0-0 Uefa Cup tie. Simon Grayson, who was taken off against Bordeaux after falling ill, has recovered and Brian Little has an otherwise fit squad to choose from as his side go in search of their third win in a row.

Danish international Jacob Laursen will play for Derby despite having a broken nose. The defender missed the Rams' mid-week Coca-Cola Cup victory over Southend after suffering the broken nose in last week's 3-1 win over Everton but has declared himself fit. Lee Carsley should return after recovering from a dead leg, as should Stefano Eranio (harnstring) and Igor Stimac (knee). Darryl Powell, who is due for a scan on a knee injury, has been ruled out and defender Matt Carbon is out for six weeks after he damaged his Achilles in training. Derby are looking for their first away points of the season after 1-0 defeats at Blackburn and Tottenham.



Bolton v Manchester Utd Blake 3 Leading scorer Cole, Keane

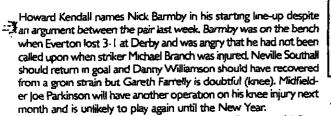


South African defender Mark Fish should make his debut for Bolton after finally being granted a work permit. Mike Whitlow, signed yesterday from Leicester for £500,000, could also start, helping to alleviate an injury crisis that has seen half the squad in for treatment in the past week. Alan Thompson (ankle), Gerry Taggart (hamstning) and Scott Sellars (thigh strain) are all doubtful, while Robbie Elliott (leg) and Neil Cox (harnstring) are out, John McGinlay is expected to have recovered from an Achilles strain.

Ole Gunnar Solskaer, Manchester United's leading goalscorer last season, is likely to be in the squad. The Norwegian striker has not played since taking a kick on his ankle during a pre-season friendly with Internazionale. Teddy Sheringham could play after recovering from cracked ribs, and Ryan Giggs may return, after missing the midweek Champions' League win against Kosice in Slovakia because of a hamstring problem. United will wait to see whether David Beckham suffers any reaction to his groin injury.



Everton v Barnsley



Barnsley manager Danny Wilson is without five potential firstteam players for today's trip to Goodison after a recent spate of injuries. Andy Liddell, Nicky Eaden and Jovo Bosancic all have thigh strains, John Hendrie is still sidelined with a hamstring problem and Arian de Zeeuw is doubtful after needing eight stitches in his knee following last weekend's defeat against Aston Villa. Goalkeeper David Watson returns to the squad after a long lay-off due to concussion and bruised kidneys and could press Lars Leese for a starting place.



Leeds v Leicester

Leeds manager George Graham is set to name an unchanged side following Tuesday's 3-1 Coca-Cola Cup win over Bristol City. Winger Bruno Ribeiro is in contention for a starting place after coming on and scoring in midweek. Dutch defender Robert Molenaar has already overcome a groin strain. Winger Lee Sharpe will see a spe-Calist at the end of next week about a pre-season knee injury which has kept him out of action so far this term. Leeds will be looking to build on last Sunday's 4-3 win over Blackburn, which ended a run

of three defeats and no goals. Leicester's Ian Marshall, who scored in the 2-1 Uefa Cup first leg defeat to Athletico Madrid on Tuesday, is hoping to play despite suffering a gash to his calf in Spain. He needed seven stitches, but has told manager Martin O'Neill that he is fit, which would mean no place at the start for Steve Claridge. Lexcester captain Steve Walsh, who has lead the Foxes to fifth place in the Premiership with II points from their first six games, is doubtful with a hamstring injury.



Sheffield Wed v Coventry

Sheffield Wednesday, who lost 2-0 at Gnmsby in the Coca-Cola Cup in midweek and are second from bottom of the Premiership, could have David Hirst back if he passes a fitness test on a calf injury. Striker Ritchie Humphreys will also have a test after being out with an ankle injury suffered in the reserves. Benito Carbone is still out, com-

pleting a three-match suspension. Coventry City manager Gordon Strachan will delay his team selection until immediately before today's match to give more time for his strikers Dion Dublin (knee) and Darren Huckerby (ankle) to recover from injury. They were both missed during the midweek Coca-Cola Cup tie at the Second Division club Blackpool, which Coventry lost 1-0, kyle Lightbourne and Martin Johansen, who were called upon to deputise on Tuesday, will fill in again if either of the first-choice pair fail fitness tests. Coventry, who have yet to win-away from home this season, have gained all their eight points from their four home gannes.

..AND STATISTICS

How Wimbledon have narrowed the gap

When they moved into Selhurst Park in 1991. Wimbledon were very much the junior partners in their ground-sharing scheme with Crystal Palace. The fact that Joe Kinnear's team go into today's match between the two sides as clear favourities is a clear indication of how the balance of power has shifted.

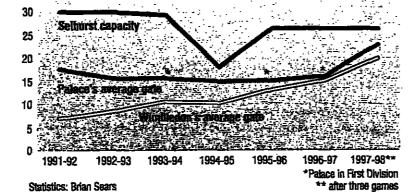
While Palace have yo-yoed between the First Division and the Premiership, Wimbledon have firmly established themselves in the top flight. Moreover, having been unable to keep up with the Vinnie Joneses on the pitch, Palace have also struggled to match Wimbledon off it.

In the first season of ground-sharing - when the two clubs were both in the top division - Palace's average gate (17,618) was more than double Wimbledon's (6,905). The gap has narrowed every year since then to the point where Wimbledon were within 1,000 of Palace's. average last season, although the gulf has widened again since Palace's return to the Premiership. Last season Palace averaged 16,085 compared to Wimbledon's 15.158. There appear to be two specific factors behind the trend: Wimbledon's

success, particularly when measured against Palace's inconsistency, plus the fact that for many visiting fans, unable to buy tickets for their own clubs' self-out home games, an away match at Selhurst Park offers a rare chance to see their team in action. The general rise in Premiership gates is also clearly a factor. When the two

teams last met in the Premiership in 1995 only 8,835 attended. Today that

figure is likely to be doubled. Average crowds (000's) since Wimbledon moved to Selburst Park



er Joe Parkinson will have another operation on his knee injury next FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW THEY STAND

						Home				Away		Form	Upcoming matches			
		PI	Pts	GD)	W	D	٠L	F	Α	W	D	L	F	Α	(Annual recent on right)	
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Southampton v Liverpool

Matthew Le Tissier may play for Southampton after making a midweek comeback. Le Tissier, recovering from a broken elbow, scored a penalty in a reserve match against Millwall on Wednesday and will most likely start on the bench. Mickey Evans and teenager Kevin Davies, who both scored in Southampton's midweek 3-1 Coca-Cola Cup win over Brentford, are likely to start up front for the Saints. although Norwegian Egil Ostenstad will have an injection on his injured ankle and then decide if he can play through the pain.

Robbie Fowler will almost certainly make his first Liverpool appearance of the season. The England striker will probably start the game on the bench, with Michael Owen, who scored in Liverpool's 2-2 Uefa Cup draw against Celtic on Tuesday, continuing up front alongside Karlheinz Riedle. Full-back Rob Jones is out with a knee problem, which should open the door for Jason McAteer's comeback. Steve Harkness, ruled out in Glasgow because of a groin strain.



Tottenham v Blackburn

Leading scorer

Tottenham are likely to start without Neale Fenn, who scored in the first minute and was then stretchered off during the narrow 3-2 win over Second Division club Carlisle in the Coca-Cola Cup in midweek. Gerry Francis will rely on 24-year-old Paul Mahorn and Portugese striker Jose Dominguez up front in the absence of the injured Les Ferdinand, Steff Iversen and Rory Allen. Chris Armstrong, suspended after he was sent off in a reserve match, is also unavailable, while Justin Edinburgh returns after a ban.

Blackburn's Scottish international striker Kevin Gallagher, who has scored seven goals already this season, misses today's game with flu. Long-term absentees Stuart Ripley and Chris Coleman are still out. Colin Hendry returns after he suffered a dead leg in last Sunday's defeat by Leeds and Billy McKinlay is also fit again after a groin injury, Marlon Broomes and Damien Duff, who both played in Wednesday's 6-0 win over Preston, are likely to start, along with goalkeeper Alan Fettis, who was cup-tied for the midweek fixture.



West Ham v Newcastle

lan Pearce will make his West Ham debut after his 22.3m move from Blackburn, playing a central defensive role alongside Rio Ferdinand and David Unsworth. The Hammers are likely to be without Paul Kitson, who strained a groin muscle in the Coca-Cola Cup defeat at Huddersfield in midweek, and John Moncur (calf strain). lain Dowie and Frankie Lampard should deputise. Australian winger Stan Lazandis is fit after recovering from a groin strain.

Newcastle may be without defender Alessandro Pistone, still suffering from the effects of a virus which ruled him out of Wednesday's 3-2 win over Barcelona. Stuart Pearce (hamstring) is also unlikely to play, and Alan Shearer, despite having the plaster removed from his broken ankle yesterday, will not be back for three months at least. Defender Darren Peacock is not expected to start, despite being on the bench for the past two games and coming on against Barcelona. Otherwise, Kenny Dalglish has no further injury problems and has all of Wednesday's winning squad at his disposal.



Wimbledon v C Palace



Steve Coppell, whose side lost 1-0 in midweek to Third Division Hull, goes into this "away" fixture at Selhurst Park (which his side shares with Wimbledon) with severe injury problems in his squad. Defender Marc Edworthy, striker Paul Warhurst and midfielder Simon Rodger are all unlikely to play. England Under-21 striker Bruce Dyer and Italian international Attilio Lombardo are doubtful. Palace. who have won two of their three away Premiership matches this season and lost all three at home, may be glad to be using the visitors' dressing room.

Wimbledon's Carl Cort is likely to renew the partnership with Efan Ekoku which helped beat Newcastle 3-1 last week. Cort played alongside fellow underling Jason Eueli against Millwall in midweek, scoring twice in the 5-1 Coca-Cola Cup win, but Euell picked up an injury, which opens the way for Ekoku to return. Midfielder Robbie Earle has returned from World Cup duty with Jamaica and also looks likely to be included in Wimbledon's line-up.



Chelsea v Arsenai Leading scorer





Graeme Le Saux is available for Chelsea again after suspension and is likely to replace England under-21 defender Danny Granville, who scored in Thursday's 2-0 European Cup-Winners' Cup win over Slovan Bratislava. Ruud Gullit has no major injunes and the same 21man squad to select from as in midweek.

Arsenal have striker Dennis Bergkamp and French defender Gilles Grimandi back in their squad for tomorrow's encounter at Stamford Bridge. There is a slight doubt over the fitness of French midfielder Patrick Vieira, who has a groin injury. Tony Adams will start after recovering from a rib injury. He demonstrated his fitness with a fine performance on Tuesday in Greece in the 1-0 Uefa Cup defeat against PAOK Salonila. Marc Overmars has recovered from a groin injury and should start alongside compatriot Bergkamp, who missed the European fixture due to his fear of flying. Bergkamp will replace Nicolas Anelka, who deputised for him in Greece and should retain at least a place on the bench.

Major weekend fixtures and pools check

FA Carling Premier-

- 2 Bolton v Man Utd. 4 Leeds v Leicester
- 5 Sheff Wed v Coventry . 6 Southernoton y Liverzool
- Nationwide Football League First Division 10 Crewe v OPR ...
- 12 Man City v Norwich .. 14 Nortm Forest v Porismou 16 Port Vale v Bury.... 17 Stockport v Hudde
- Second Division
- 21 Blackbool v Oldham 22 Bristol City v Bourns 23 Burnley v Preston. 24 Carlisle v Plymouth 25 Chesterfield v Bristol Rvrs 26 Gillingham v Watford
- 28 Luton v Wrestran 29 Northempton v Wigar 30 Southend v Fulharr 31 Walsell v York
- Third Division
- 32 Barnet v Scunthorpe 33 Doncaster v Cembridge 34 Exeter v Rotherham 35 Lincoln v Cardiff. 36 Mansfield v Chester .. 37 Peterborough v L Orien
- 38 Rochdale v Hull
- wabury v Notta Co
- **Bell's Scottish League** Premier Division
- 40 Celtic v Aberdeen . 41 *Dunfermåne v Kärnernock . 42 Hearts v Dundee Utd........... 43 Motherwell v Hibernian 44 St Johnstone v Rangera * Playing tomorrow (Pools panel will adjudicate
- First Division
- 47 Falkirk v St Mirren
- **Second Division** - Clyde v Brechn .
- Clydebank v Stenhousemuir :.... - East Fife v Livingston......
- Queen of Sth v Invernoes CT
- Albion v Alica.....
- Oueen's Pk v Cowdenbeath....
- 4.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premier-

Nationwide Football League First Division Charlton v Bradford City (10)

Bell's Scottish League **Premier Division**

ing. The first Tottenham player to arrive at the club's training ground is their captain for the past 10 seasons, lost time after losing the whole of last season through injury.
Nobody gave Mabbutt, at the age

Spurs Lodge, early on Friday morn-

Gary Mabbutt has faced

years at Tottenham. The

centre-back, diagnosed as

returned to Spurs' first tear

after a year out recovering

ago, he was sidelined by a

socket. But, as Ian Stafford

eager to fulfil his lasting

ambition, to win a

championship medal

discovered, at 36 he is still

from a broken leg. Four years

fractured cheekbone and eye

diabetic at 18, has just

proved before to be a mistake.

some serious battles in his 16 He fully expects to be leading his team out this afternoon at White Hart after just 18 minutes of the first game in football. Then, after the facial injury of last season.

"I can't deny the last year's been hard for me," Mabbutt admitted. "I hoped to be back playing after Christmy third and last operation in March. get back my fitness and, when I ran out as a substitute against Aston Villa earlier this month, in my first game back for over a year, it was a very big

moment for me." Others, after a career that has seen him win England caps, a Uefa Cupwinner's medal and lift the FA Cup Gary Mabbutt, eager to make up for in 1991, might have called it a day, especially as all this has been achieved despite the daily battle of being a diabetic. But not Mabbutt. Despite this of 36, much chance of regaining his being his worst injury by far, in a ca-

ment, but writing the man off has doubts that he would, once again, be wearing the famous white shirt.

Gary Mabbutt, at Tottenham's training ground yesterday, benefits from an enviable chracteristic. 'I seem to have the ability to work better when the odds ars stacked against me'

Mabbutt resumes pursuit of final ambition

said. "When I was first diagnosed with in 1993, when my cheekbone and eye socket were both broken in several places, some thought I was finished.

"I don't quite know why it is, but mas but complications arose and I was I've always been able to bounce only really able to look ahead after back. I seem to have the ability to work better when the odds are I spent the whole summer training to stacked against me, although maybe the fact that I've managed to build a career in football with diabetes has meant that I'm prepared to meet the challenges of injury."

> Whatever the reason, Mabbutt is well and truly back, and when you bear in mind that Sours boast the likes of Sol Campbell, John Scales, Ramon Vega and Colin Calderwood all playing as centre-backs, room for the captain was by no means a foregone

Yet he has returned to a familiar first team place, against tough com-reer that has been dominated by 16 tune. Despite playing for one of the petition in the centre-back depart- years at Spurs, he never had any most prestigious clubs in England, if

won a league championship medal, don't win the league that way."

"I always knew I'd be back," he and although this season is still in its "Yel results have not significantly Lane against high-flying Blackburn, diabetes, when I was 18 and playing the same, erratic fashion that has been in charge, either, despite the for-

> horrid. "It's been my biggest disappointyou know, the last time Spurs won the league was in 1961, the year I was born. Since I've played for them, we've had some brilliant players like Hoddle, Waddle, Gascoigne and

ously challenged for the title. For a club like us, that's very poor." Does he know why this is so? "We've never been consistent," Mabbutt replied, matter-of-factly. "You have to be organised, disciplined and consistent to stand a chance of winning the title. Certainly, when Ossie Ardiles was the manager, he went all out for total football, which meant trying to score as many goals

as possible. We hardly did any de-

fensive work in training. It may sound

not in Europe, Mabbutt has never but not if you're a defender; and you of. If Spurs are going to help him

childhood days, Spurs have begun in improved since Gerry Francis has ironically the team against whom he for Bristol Rovers, people had serious dogged them for so many years, and mer QPR manager's impressive track sustained his broken tibia and fibia doubts about whether I had a future when Spurs are bad, like at Leices-record. "No, although I believe that he has laid the foundation for consistency," the club captain said.

"It's easy to go on about injuries. ment so far," Mabbutt conceded. "Do but I've never known so-many problems as we've had in the past couple of years. Contrary to belief, there's no sinister reason for this, like overtraining. Nearly all our injuries have been sustained during matches. Even against Carlisle the other night [a Lineker, but we've never really seri-Coca-Cola Cup tie that Spurs won 3-2] we were missing Iversen, Ferdinand and Armstrong, our three strikers. It's very difficult to get any kind of continuity to win a trophy under those conditions.

"It is my honest belief that, with everyone fit, we are capable of at least challenging for the league. Look at the battle in the central defence! It's like that now for every position, and that can only be good."

Still, time is running out for Mabgreat to try and win every game 4-3, butt, something he is acutely aware

achieve his remaining, and biggest ambition in football, then they had better get a move on:

"The body clock's ticking away all right," he admits. "And we haven't right system. We've got to start: pulling in the same way, because wecan't spend much longer this season trying to get it right."

Will he retire as a frustrated and bitter player if the league title eludes. him? "Not bitter, no," he said. "But I'm sure it will nag away at me. I've got to remember I've lifted the FA: Cup, which is every boy's dream, but I'd like, at the very least, to play a part; in mounting a serious challenge forthe title, even if we don't end up winning it."

And so, until the Mabbutt body. clock alarm rings, he will persevere, injecting himself each day to keep hisdiabetes at bay, meeting any injury challenge, it seems, head on, and keeping younger and high profile players out of the first team.

As far as Gary Mabbutt is concerned, there is still some unfinished business to complete.

Unravelling the history and mystery of the motto

There's no doubt that Bare- explanation is rather more clona are, as their club motto worthy than the one put formaintains, "More than a Club": 'institution" would, in fact, be a more apt description. However, the 14-times Spanish champions were obviously not quite enough of a club to be able to overcome Newcastle United on Wednesday night, a club who just five years ago were staring the old English

Third Division in the face, Keith Gillespie may have been the architect. Faustino Asprilla the executioner, but it was Newcastle's defence which held the key to victory. A back four which used to be renowned for being as leaky as a chocolate teapot stood firm in the closing minutes against incessant Catalan pressure. But then you'd expect that of a club whose motto - Fortiter Defendit Triumphans - insists that a Strong Defence Triumphs: a fact that Kenny Dalglish has obviously taken on board to a far greater degree than his predecessor.

Club mottoes, like Kevin Keegan's attitude to defending, are something of a mystery. There appears to be no rhyme nor reason why certain clubs display stirring (or not so stirring) Latin or English maxims

ward by Reading's historian, David Downes, that: "It's down to someone at a club showing the initiative to plump for a motto and implement it."

He's been trying for years to get Reading to adopt the somewhat unoriginal motto. OLIVIA "Up the Royals", but at least that's preferable to the club BLAIR paying lip service to a sponsor on their crest. Thankfully, there's currently only one such culprit. Compare the awful OFFICIAL (AND inscription on Grimsby's Club crest (Europe's Food Town) to the evocative Arte E Labore (Skill and Toil) promoted by MAXIMS Blackburn who, under Roy Hodgson, seem to have finally added Arte to the Labore which won them the premiership in 1994-95; or to Bury's rousing Vincit Omnia Industria (Hard Work Overcomes Facere (To Dare is to Succeed) last season's Second Division that is, I know which motto I

rope's Food Town it certainly Glasgow could never be town, so it's not surprising to a more appropriate maxim. find that Rangers' motto is the more noble, Aye Ready (Always



ON THE

UNOFFICIAL) CLUB

rope. But if we're picking holes in club mottoes, then Spurs has to take the biscuit. Whoever saddled the North London club with the dictum Audere E Everything); well, everything in obviously hadn't reckoned on the Spurs of the 1990s, who haven't dared to do anything find more inspiring and Eu- of note since Gazza dared to chip David Seaman at Wembley in 1991. Any Spurs fan would concede that "Things described as Europe's food can only get better" might be

But then fans are seldom canvassed on issues such as son and the reward"; or that it's Ready), to which the cynics mottoes, as Sunderland fans all about "progress" to Black-

new crest and motto, claiming that the crest is too similar to Newcastle's and that the motto - Connectatio Excellentiae (In Search of Excellence) – was simply plucked, without thought, from the pages of a Latin dictionary. After rumours suggesting it was borrowed from a local Gateshead bus company proved to beunfounded, a local paper acted as a forum for fans' personal preferences, which range from the angry (Let's Shaft the Fans) to the more pragmatic (In Search of Promotion).

Being realistic, it's doubtful that a motto has any bearing whatsoever on a club's performance these days. Okay, so Chesterfield may continually "aspire" to greater beights – witness their performance in reaching the semi finals of the FA Cup last season - while Kilmarnock could do worse than take heart from their motto Confidemus (Let us have Confidence) when they try to overcome the 3-1 first leg deficit against Nice in the Cup-Winners' cup.

But try telling Burnley, currently propping up the Second Division that "work is the reaers are motto-less. I suspect the might add... to go out of Eu- know only too well. They were pool, who haven't escaped the of that story.

enraged by the club's choice of clutches of the Second Division for five years. There was certainly no sign of Bruce Rioch and Arsenal's board of directors paying any heed to the Highbury motto Victoria Concordia Crescit (Victory comes. through Agreement) when they came to blows, nor is there any evidence to suggest that anyone at Everton has thought to remind Howard Kendall that Nil Satis Nisi Optimum (Only the Best is Good Enough) at Goodison. If they had, the Everton manager would surely have given up his pursuit of Fabrizio Ravanelli and officaded the beleaguered Nick Barmby.

Finally, if anyone can throw light on Stockport's unique motto, which describes them as "The Friendly Football Club", don't expect it to be ex-managers Dave Jones and Danny Bergara. The former was recently snubbed by the club he led to promotion and Coca Cola Cup renown last season when they refused to stock his book in the club shop, while Stockport's parting gift to Bergara, who had taken them to two play-off finals and two Autoglass Trophy finals, was a punch on the head from chairman Brendan Elwood. No prizes for guessing the motto

Shearer has cast removed

After the impressive display by South African Football Asso- head again last month when Ar-Chelsea's Italian players on Thursday night, England's World Cup hopes were given a boost yesterday when Alan Shearer had the plaster-cast and pin removed from his right leg.

"It's a relief to have the pot taken off. The specialist informed me that everything is going according to plan," said the Newcastle striker, who injured his ankle at Everton in the pre-season Umbro Tournament. "Now I'm looking forward to the next part of my recovery pro- putes over the length of matchgramme." As part of their build-up to

the finals next summer, England have been invited to play a friendly against South Africa in Johannesburg in May. The

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

play in an annual match honouring President Nelson Mandela. An FA spokesman said the

invitation was being considtake on any more commitments until they knew if they had qualified for the finals. The League Managers' As-

sociation has asked for referees' watches to be linked to stadium clocks to diffuse potential dises. The LMA wants them to be connected to electronic clocks around grounds so that players, officials and fans all know exactly how long is remaining.

The time problem reared its

ciation has asked England to senal players surrounded referee Graham Barber after he had played six minutes overtime in the 3-3 draw with Leicester.

Several managers have contacted the LMA to see what can: ered, but England would not be done to eliminate such situations and it will be discussed at a technical liaison panel with representatives of the FA, the Premier and Football Leagues and the LMA on 1 October.

Ajax and Feyenoord are to ban each other's fans from their stadiums. In March, a fight between hundreds of spectators left an Ajax fan dead. Two Feyenoord fans were convicted of murder and sentenced to four years. in prison.

Rieper ready to make Celtic debut

Dutch winger Regi Blinker is ruled out of the Celtic side for the match against Aberdeen after dislocating his shoulder in the Uefa Cup draw with Liverpool in midweek, but Danish defender Marc Rieper is set to make his home debut after his £1.5m move from West Ham.

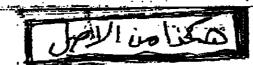
Second-placed Hearts are in attack after his double against

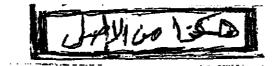
probably come too soon for him. Paul Tosh, although striker: give a debut to Swedish defend- the side. er Magnus Skoldmark if they can get international clearance.

of the Motherwell side by suspension following his sendinglast week and Steve Craigan again looking to Jim Hamilton could come into the defence as St Johnstone last week. De- League victory of the season.

Struggling Dundee United may Kevin Harper is set to return to:

St Johnstone are struggling to raise a side because of injuries. Greig Denham is ruled out Central defender Jim Weir and midfielder Leigh Jenkinson are. among eight players who could: off in the 3-2 defeat by Celtic be sidelined for the showdown: with the champions, Rangers, who will be without Jonas Thern. they chase their first home However, Alex Cleland and State Stensaas are expected to return, fender Dave McPherson is back Leaders Hibs could be without after missing the 2-1 Uefa Cup in training but this match has John Hughes, Lee Power and defeat in Strasbourg.





PREMIER LEAGUE INQUIRY

Anatomy of a deal: Paul Gascoigne's move to Lazio

The Premier League's report offers a remarkable insight into the running of Tottenham in the summer of 1991 as the club attempted to sell Paul Gascoigne to Lazio.

The club needed to sell because of financial difficulties and a price of £6.7m was provisionally agreed. The deal was placed in jeopardy because of Gascoigne's serious injury in the 1991 FA Cup final, after which the whole deal became a matter of negotiation between Spurs and Lazio.

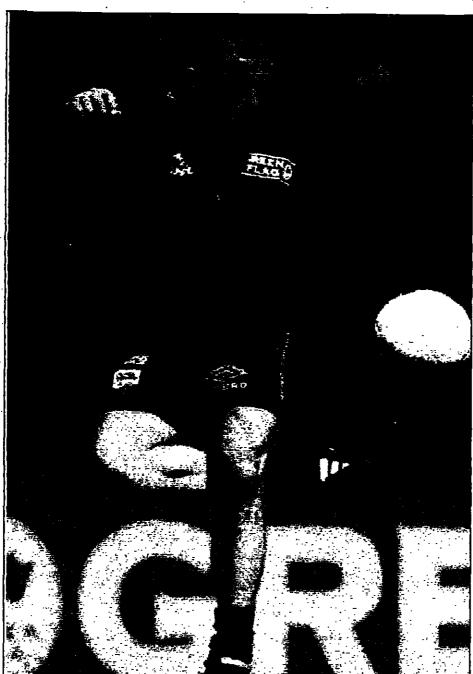
On 20 June Spurs received a fax from Lazio's solicitors agreeing to pay £5.5m, but for some reason this was not seen by Terry Venables or Alan Sugar who was on the point of taking over at Spurs at exactly the same time. As Spurs tried to revive the deal Venables involved Gino Santin, an Italian restauranter, with whom he had had previous dealings. Meetings between the two clubs did not conclude successfully as Lazio were prepared to pay only £4.8m, which Venables rejected as not

There was then a period of some confusion with Santin and Sugar separately negotiating with Lazio while Venables was on holiday in Bermuda. During this time Santin took a call on his portable phone while at Wimbledon. Santin told the inquiry: "I got this guy from Lazio calling me back and telling me, laughing in my face and telling me, We already clinched the deal.' He said: We just clinched the deal with Mr Sugar for much less than what you wanted,' and laughing in my face. I was made."

Venables then suggested to Sugar that he "butt out" and the club wrote to Lazio informing them that Santin was representing them. On 19 July Santin spoke to Lazio, and on the basis of that conversation a provisional deal was done. After setting out the terms of that deal the report continues:

tin, before the Wimbledon tele- goes nuts." phone call he had been price of £5.2m. He told us that to the point at which Gashe discovered that the deal proposed by Mr Sugar had not completed. There were many gone through, not from Tot-negotiating difficulties, relating tenham but from his contacts in Rome. It was after this that he question of Gascoigne's fitness procured the authorisations to and to the friendly matches act on Tottenham's behalf. He between the clubs. Matters told us that when he had re- were not made any easier when ceived his authorisation: "I phoned the guy at Lazio and I non-footballing injury. Howstarted laughing in his face be- ever, nobody disputes that Mr cause I said to him there is no you talk to me, and we start talk-

The transfer of Alf-luge Haa-





Paul Gascoigne (left), the England footballer who was loved at White Hart Lane, and the manager who sold him from Tottenham to Lazio in 1991, Terry Venables

coigne's transfer was finally amongst other things to the Gascoigne sustained a further Santin was responsible for the took place between Lazio and

1.25 The transfer figure of £5.5m was a figure which Lazio's solicitors had indicated to Tottenham's solicitors Lazio were prepared to pay in their letter dated 20 June, 1991. The mystery of why this figure appears not to have been known either to Mr Venables or to Mr Sugar remains unresolved. The breakdown in communication.

1.23 According to Mr San- ing about the £5.5m, the guy Tottenham. What is far from At what point and why the lating to fitness and perfor- payment to Tottenham of the letter to be overlooked. Cer- Santin must therefore have the er to be found on Tottenham's files and with the benefit of though the task of getting that gest ways in which virtually everyone involved on the Tot- first sight appear. tenham side could have acted differently. The reason for Lazio's subsequent retreat to a Mr Santin negotiated had alfigure of £4.825m has not be-

tainly the relevant letter was lat- credit for obtaining the additional sum for Tottenham, even

1.26 Further, two other elements in the transaction which ready been the subject of distheir offer, particularly those re- the two friendly games, and the Rome.

which Tottenham eventually obtained from a deal with Sky played no part in the negotiawas present and assisted on the day of the match when problems arose about whether

clear, though, is whether if Tot- breakdown in communication mance. Without Mr Santin it is interest on the transfer fee reached his agreement with 1.24 It was a long and tenham had handled matters occurred is not plain but in the at least very possible that pending Paul Gascoigne be- Lazio for the sale of Gascoigne negotiating with Lazio for a tortuous road from that point differently they would have turmoil of the takeover it would the transaction would have coming fit to play football at £5.5m and the other benefits been able to obtain the same not have been difficult for the proceeded at that figure. Mr again. The further benefit for Tottenham which included all gate receipts from the home game and part of the receipts television to screen the two from the game in Rome, he games for a fee of £200,000, was wanted to be paid. There was subsequent rules changes" it hindsight it is possible to sug- sum may well have been con- negotiated between Mr Sugar a heated three-way telephone siderably easier than might at and Mr Chisholm. Mr Santin conversation between Mr Santin, Mr Venables, and Mr Sugtion of this contract although he ar in which Mr Santin put forward his case for payment. Mr Sugar was outraged. He had been told originally by Mr Vencome clear but may be due to cussion and apparent approval Sky would be permitted to ables that Mr Santin would do deal, there is no more deal. Now transaction which eventually most likely explanation is a alterations in the other terms of at an earlier stage. They were transmit the game played in it "for a drink". He had not ap- that it was satisfied that this was preciated the change in Mr not so.

Santin's role from being a translator turning up at one meeting as a favour to that of a negotiator expecting to be paid a substantial fee for achieving a contract. Similarly, although Mr Venables appreciated that Mr Santin's new role merited some payment he was horrified at the level of payment which Mr Santin now demanded.

1.28 Eventually the Tottenham board considered the position at their meeting on 12 September 1991. At that meeting it was reported that Mr [Dennis] Roach, who had been the original agent engaged to market Paul Gascoigne, had agreed to accept £27,500 in full and final settlement of his claim. The minutes went on to record as follows:

"There was a general discussion concerning fees payable to Mr Santin in connection with the Gascoigne disposal Mr Venables was given authority by the Board to negotiate further with Mr Santin. It is hoped that his fee can be limited to approximately £150,000."

1.29 Mr Venables did negotiate with Mr Santin. Eventually they agreed a fee of £200,000. On 30 July, 1992 the minutes of Tottenham Board meeting contained the following item:

"Gascoigne/Lazio the anticipated fee to the agent in connection with the transfer of Gascoigne to Lazio is currently £200,000 plus VAT. The accounts should be amended to reflect this."

1.30 Following receipt of an invoice from Anglo European Market Research and Consulting Company, the fee of £200,000 was paid by cheque dated 7 September 1992 drawn on the account of Tottenham Hotspur Football and Athletic Co Ltd and signed, with appropriate Board approval, by Mr Sugar and Mr Sandy. The cheque was delivered to Mr Santin by a courier under cover of a compliments slip from Mr Sandy, the Tottenham finance director.

The inquiry concluded that Santin's involvement was a breach of FA rules, but that "given the length of time that has passed, the prevalence of breaches of this Rule and the proposes that the Premier League should not make a formal report on the matter to the FA. It also says that there had been "some veiled suggestions that some part of this fee was paid back by Mr Santin to Mr Venables", but

Protracted saga of the Haland transfer

8.2 Mr Fenton told us that at the mission. Our Conversation". The

moved the Brian Clough era but was not concluded until Frank Clark had taken over as manager. The deal involved the Norwegian agent Rune Hauge, who was a key figure in the George Graham affair. The deal involved Fonton receiving a payment of £45,000 after he left the club. This is how the report de-

scribes that payment:

8.1 Although Mr Fenton told us that Mr Hauge contacted him at least once or twice a week whilst be was at Forest, after Mr Fenton left the club he told us that he did not speak to Mr Hauge until one evening in March 1994 when Mr Hauge contacted him on the telephone. Mr Fenton told us that the call came out of the blue. Mr Hauge told Mr Fenton that he Nottingham to meet Mr Hauge at the "Lancaster Gate Hotel" in take to be to the Royal Lancaster Hotel, a hotel often used by Mr Hauge, although we do not consider the issue to be material to this report). Mr Hauge was in England to watch Arsenal FC play the home leg of a European game. Although Mr Fenton was not clear about the date, he was able to indicate in subsequent correspondence that this may have been the match between

place on 15 March 1994.

Bryne to Nottingham Forest was a Hauge did not say why he wished protracted affair. It began during to see him. He merely told Mr Fenton that it would "be to your advantage". Mr Fenton told the Hauge said he wished to pay Mr Fenton the sum of £45,000. He told us that Mr Hauge indicated that the payment was as commission for help that Mr Fenton had given to him over the previous four to five years. Mr Fenton told us that the payment "came out of the blue". In a later statement, Mr Fenton has acknowledged that Mr Hauge informed him that the £45,000 was payment, in part, as "commission" for the Haaland transfer.

8.3 Mr Fenton told us that, at the meeting in March 1994, Mr Hause wrote down for him the details of whom Mr Fenton should contact to obtain payment of the £45,000. Mr Hauge gave Mr Fenwould like to meet, and Mr Fenton ton the details of InterClub Ltd. Mr told us that he drove down from Fenton was told to speak to "Lisa" a reference to Ms Lisa Davey, then an employee of a company London (a reference which we called Saffery Champness Man- to be transferred into a French bank agement International Limited, who are based in Guernsey and at that time acted on behalf of [Hauge's] InterClub Ltd. In his statement to the police, Mr Penton

8.4 The Inquiry has seen a letter dated 22 March 1994 on the headed paper of Proman A/S from Mr Hauge to Ms Lisa Davey of Saffery Champness. The letter is head-Arsenal FC and Torino, which took ed "Re: Transfer of Alf Inge spoke to Mr Hauge only once Haaland: Payment of other com-

land from the Norwegian club time of the telephone call, Mr document authorises Ms Davey to pay £45,000 to Mr Fenton as "other commission". The letter asks Ms Davey to make arrangements for the payment to Mr Fenton, stating: Inquiry that at the meeting itself Mr Please also find the best practical way for him to receive the funds and send him a letter with your proposal." We have also seen handwritten notes taken by Mr Hauge which would suggest that £90,000 was to be disbursed to "others" in relation to the Haaland transfer. We have seen no evidence to suggest whether the other £45,000 was in fact paid to anyone or to identify the intended recipient.

> 8.5 Mr Fenton told us that after his meeting with Mr Hauge he got in touch with Ms Davey, and asked her to confirm the sum to him, which she did in writing. Subsequently, Mr Fenton told us that he telephoned Ms Davey and instructed her to account to him for £5,000 which she did by cheque. Mr Fenton then asked for £10,000 to be transferred from the InterClub account, and the remaining £30,000 based in St Tropez. He also informed us that subsequently he spent some of the money on a holiday, and retained the rest. On another occasion, Mr Fenton has said Ms Davey was also present at said that he received the final £10,000 in two payments of £5,000

> > 8.6 Mr Fenton told us that since the meeting at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in March 1994, he more on the telephone, and had



Haland: Centre of attention concerning transfer irregularities

then discussed with him Mr Champness accounted to him for Hauge's problems with the Nor-monies and also copies of relevant wegian authorities.

8.7 Although the Inquiry has requested that Mr Fenton make the relevant documents were with available to us copies of the corre- the Inland Revenue, who were spondence by which Saffery conducting their own enquiry.

banking and other records relating to the same payments, Mr Fenton declined to do so on the basis that

8.8 Mr Fenton told the Inquiry that there was never any suggestion that any part of this money ought to be paid on to Mr Clough or anyone else at Nottingham Forest. The Inquiry has seen no evidence to indicate that any payment was made

to Mr Clough by Mr Hauge either go back to Forest, and you can tell in connection with the transfer of Mr Haaland or otherwise.

9. MR CLOUGH'S REAC- jail...subsequent to that I under-

Fenton received his payment from Mr Hauge in March 1994, that the Sunday Express printed an article suggesting that monies deriving from the Haaland transfer had found their way back to Mr Clough. Mr Clough appears to have read the article since ac- account by Mr Clarke. He told the cording to Mr [Archie] Gemmill [one of the Forest back-room staff], shortly after the article appeared Mr lough spoke to Mr Gemmill on that subject. Later, we heard that Mr Gemmill relayed the content of this conversation to Mr [Allan] Clarke [another member to him and he should have turned of the Forest back-room staff] on the telephone. Mr Clarke told the Inquiry:

"[Gemmill] told me he had seen Brian Clough and that he was very upset reading in the newspaper today about the Haaland deal and where money had been passed over. I saw Brian Clough myself possibly a week or fortnight later when he himself told me that he had rang the club and asked to speak to Frank Clark who was not available so he spoke to Hill and he asked him what it was about. Hill had said that he would have ing of a payment to Mr Fenton to go across some time and explain it to him and [Clough] had told [Hill] he would be across here in half an hour...Hill had told [Clough] that it was something that Fenton had done totally on his to him came as a "complete surown, and the boss told Hill_you prise".

the chairman and the manager that if I am implicated in any of this whatsoever I will [put you] all in stand that Fenton did go over to 9.1 It was some time after Mr see Clough to apologise to him...No-one was quite certain about who had the actual money that Fenton had got. The inference seemed to be that he had it all him-

9.2 Mr Hill corroborated this

"I got called up to Brian Clough's house when it came out in the paper accusing Brian of having the money and he sent for me and he said can you explain what this is all about and I had to explain up at 3 o'clock but he did not. He did not have any part in the deal, which he didn't".

9.3 When the Inquiry interviewed Mr White on 21 February 1995, the payment to Mr Fenton apparently came as a surprise to him even though by that time there had already been newspaper speculation on the issue and others at the club had already been in contact with Mr Clough about this, Mr O'Kane confirmed to the Inquiry that he knew nothuntil it had appeared in the media. He expressed his surprise. For his part, Mr Fenton told the Inquiry that the media revelations regarding Mr Hauge's payment

in Date

Premier League inquiry reveals football's dark side

Gienn Moore reports

Football is not corrupt, but it has a shady underbelly in which motorway service stations, cardboard boxes full of cash and North Sea trawlers

each play a part. That is the leading conclusion from the long-awaited Premier League's "bung" inquiry, which finally reported yesterday, three years and 10 months after being set up.

The report, which interviewed 66 witnesses in person and 24 by telephone, implicates a number of people as involved in either "improper behaviour" or infringement of Football Association regulations. They include Terry Venables and Brian Clough, a number of other club officials and several agents.

No one has been charged as the Premier League do not have that authority. The FA does and they pledged an "urgent and serious investigation" with "a decision on charges" to be "taken shortly".

In view of the weight of evidence - the report runs to more than 300 pages, 145 of them on Teddy Sheringham's 1992 transfer from Nottingham Forest to Tottenham - it would be a grave neglect of duty if no one follows George Graham into the dock.

The most serious allegations centre on Ronnie Fenton, the former Nottingham Forest assistant manager. The inquiry concludes that he received £50,000 cash from the Sheringham deal, with the consent this behaviour. and knowledge of Venables, his former assistant Ted Buxton, and Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar. They suggest some of regulation is clearly required, tarily".

Forest employees, possibly including Clough, and that a substantial sum was used by Fenton to pay for his daughter's wedding.

This money is said to have been exchanged at a service station on the M1 at a meeting between Sheringham, Fenton and Frank McLintock, who was acting as an agent for Sheringham and Tottenham. All three are said to have deliberately misled the inquiry.

In another case, involving the signing of two players from non-League Leicester United, the report concludes: There is direct evidence of a fraudalent arrangement by which Mr Clough and/or Mr Fenton acquired a substantial sum of money from the two transfers."

Steve Burtenshaw, George Graham's former assistant at Arsenal, is also said to have "knowingly received pay-ments...derived directly from from transfer fees paid by Arsenal to Brondby in connection with the transfer of John Jensen." That was one of the transfer deals which led to Graham's sacking at Arsenal and a one-year ban from the FA. Burtenshaw survived but left Arsenal this summer.

The report states that regulations concerning agents, "created a cult of dishonesty". After noting two cases where Tottenham, then managed by Venables, paid agents by means of "disguised invoices" for transfer brokering, it adds: "we do not believe Tottenham were unique or exceptional" in

Many of these rules have now changed as the game has come to accept agents. More

this money was passed on to however. Several agents are listed among those who did not co-operate as the enquiry would have liked and the Spurs fullback Justin Edinburgh is quoted expressing his dissatisfaction at discovering Eric Hall represented both him and Tottenham when he joined them from Southend.

Edinburgh, who paid Hall £5,000 cash for brokering the deal, said: "I felt Eric had let me down, that he had said to me he was working in my best interests, that it seemed that be was always working for the club...I felt he had taken me for a ride." It is clear that several agents have exploited the amateur administration of some clubs, especially since the explosion of overseas signings.

Despite their comment about a "cult of dishonesty" the commission did not believe the game was corrupt. Robert Reid QC, who presented the report with Peter Leaver, the chief executive of the Premier League, said he did not believe players were bought and sold for gain, but "improper payments" were sometimes made in conjunction with transfers arranged "in the interests of the

Reid formed the commission with Rick Parry, Leaver's predecessor, now at Liverpool and Steve Coppell, then head of the League Managers' Association, now managing Crystal Palace. Reid said "we did not speak to everybody we would have liked to. Some of those we did requested legal representation. Others only co-operated in part." Among those was Clough who, said Reid, had refused to appear but did "give me valuable information on the telephone, possibly involun-



Peter Leaver (left) and Robert Reid QC at yesterday's announcement by the Premier League

Photograph: Robert Hallam

He did not, however, support Kate Hoey MP's call for a Statutory Inquiry. "It would be nice to be able to pull people's fingernails out until they answered but it is not practi-

cal. They had statutory powers in Norway and did not get much further," he said. Hoey, incidentally, was not prepared to repeat her allegations about Venables, made under the

cloak of parliamentary privi- covered. It would be astound- The commission uncovered politicians," Reid said.

there are cases we have not un- trouble tracing money."

lege, to the commission. ingif there were not. There are one case where a transfer did "Nothing surprises me about also some loose ends. Im- not go through because a proper dealings usually in-Reid added: "I'm sure volve cash and we have had

The suggestion that Fenton

"bung" was not paid but there was no evidence of match-fix-

money for the deal, either in Iceland or Highand, while For-

est say the cally modey paid was

to Akureyrar, and Akureyrar in-

sist no money was paid to any

The inquiry acknowledges

"the clear possibility that 'club

gossip' is unreliable", but it

The quiet man who let Clough do the talking

The prominence Ronnie Fen- and 1969, until he became Fenton left Forest when contrast to the unassuming Meadow Lane between 1975 role he has played in the and 1977.

game. been hard to detect amid the was appointed Forest's youth battalions of headlines Brian Clough created in their spell to- Clough, who would make him gether at Nottingham Forest, his assistant a decade later. but Fenton was a low-key as- Fenton was the solid, unassistant manager by preference. suming figure around which Old Big 'Ed would seek the the City Ground's figurehead limelight, Fenton preferred could brandish his unconthe shadows.

He was the same as a play- ment. er. Born in South Shields in lev. West Bromwich Albion. ford largely anonymously, ap-League games between 1960 for Brian Clough."

The day after Fenton was team coach, teaming up with ventional brand of manage-

"When I worked for Jimmy 1940, he passed though Burn- Sirrell, I honestly believed I would never meet anyone who Birmingham City and Brent- knew more about the game." he said in a rare interview. pearing in more than 180 "Then I was fortunate to work

ton plays in the Football As- part of Jimmy Sirrell's back- his mentor retired in May ation's report into "bungs" room staff at Notts County, 1993, working part-time for the could not come as a greater succeeding him as manager at FA and then as a scout for Terry Venables when he was in charge of England.

Now working as a coach in An extrovert would have sacked by Notts County, he Malta, he admitted to the "bungs" inquiry that he received money from Rune Hauge, the Norwegian agent whose £400,000 "gifts" to George Graham cost the latter his job as Arsenal man-

"There was nothing dishonest and that's the truth," Fenton told the Mirror after revealing he had received £45,000 from Hauge. "The cheque came out of the blue. Rune told me the money was a reward for service over a period of six or seven years when I advised him which



Ronnie Fenton: Admitted receiving money from

Scandinavian players might be good enough for English foot-

"He never promised me cash and I never asked for any. There might have been an unspoken agreement that I'd get something, but even so it was a surprise when £45,000 turned up as a totally unsolicited gift."

DOWN

1 Succeed with Diamond card after odd slip (8)

Shadow enveloping .

Queen's Row (7) Information? Call offi-

cer up, chivalrous type

5 Breaks away from one's

class? (6,8)
6 Former group set up to

ically striped, for

sing songs of praise? (5) Badgers? Creatures typ-

starters (7) Overthrow most of col-

Flower from a bulb re-

cently flourished, with-

out hint of rain (10,4)

cepting millions, with debts (9)

17 Covered action on out-

19 Note venom in interrup-

tion (7) 21 Knocking Moonies is of-

skirts of battle (8)

22 Keep mum confined

fensive (7)

16 Pushing a little - ac-

umn flanked by river (6)

- Guy Hodgson

Case of £45,000 on an Icelandic trawler

is the transfer that is alleged to have concluded with the payment of £45,000 brought in a £700 per week.) fishing box by an Icelandic trawler for a rendezvous in Holl

It concerns the move made by Thorvaldur Orlygsson from the Icelandic club Akureyrar to Nottingham Forest in December 1989

The inquiry was told that the deal did not involve agents or intermediaries, and that all Forest's negotiations were conducted by their manager at the time, Brian Clough, and his assistant, Ronnie Fenton (although the inquiry was unable to interview Clough about the more. matter).

When the deal was first set up in October 1989, the fee proposed was £150,000, but by the club denied that the fee had time the details were finalised, the figure had increased to rival in Iceland.

Perhaps the most remarkable £174,000, a fee paid on 5 Destory to emerge from the report cember. (The player himself received £45,000 "in a fishing agreed to terms of £500 per box off a trawler in Hull" was week, which would later rise to made by Allan Clarke, a mem-

> flew to Iceland to, in his words, "finish the deal". The report says Fenton "was unable to exfinished. He was adamant he had not brought any money back with him: he told us he only brought back two artificial

> Christmas trees." Fenton said that it was while he was in Iceland that the asking price was increased, that he telephoned Clough about it, and that Clough had agreed to pay

Akureyrar also said that the fee was increased from £150,000 to £174,000 at that time and the been agreed before Fenton's ar-

ber of the Forest back-room Also on 5 December, Fenton The mode of payment - on board a trawler - although not fer.

the exact amount was supportplain why the money had been ed by two other members of the transferred before the deal was Nottingham Forest back-room team. Archie Gemmill and Graham Lyas. Lyas told the inquiry: "We heard there was a trawler coming from Iceland, how true it was I don't know. Certainly I think Mr Fenton had to go to Hull to collect transaction".

some money."

also points out a number of causes for concern emerging from the case, among them "the persistence of stories that Mr Fenton collected a substantial cash payment from the

- Matt Tench

Branch Contraction .

A the convert time.

Cradit Care

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UNITED STATES OF STREET

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for you

CRICKET

Stewart rallies Surrey

Henry Blofeld reports from Canterbury Surrey 124 & 288-3 Kent 220

It was as if the pitch at the St Lawrence Ground had suddenly realised it had to mend its ways for such an important occasion. After a dark-suited visitation from Lord's had pondered over the surface before the start and during lunch, Alec Stewart proceeded to play as fine an innings as anyone has seen all summer, Stuart Law

and Ricky Ponting included. With sensible help from Darren Bicknell, who made his second hundred of the summer, they put Surrey in charge of the match with a third-wicket stand of 219. The nasty bounce, which had caused problems on Thursday, had for some extraordinary reason almost completely disappeared on a day which saw bad light claim 35 overs.

The pitch had not behaved well on the first day, but when the ball moves around and bounces as it did then, modern techniques are hard-pressed to cope. Brian Fitch is a most experienced groundsman and it was almost certainly not as under-prepared

after this, although the darksuited visionaries wished to see more of the match before issu-

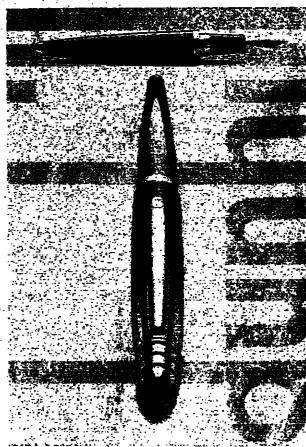
ing a statement. Stewart has not had the best of seasons with the bat, but now he began to play expansively from the start. He had made a single by lunch after Mark Ealham had sent back Mark Butcher with a return catch and Jason Ratcliffe to a superb slip catch by Trevox Ward off successive balls,

After the interval, Stewart treated the bowling with neardisdain. There was a dismissive certainty about many of his strokes which, allied to excellent timing and placing, did little for Kent's Championship hopes. He drove with a classical elegance, those familiar strokes through midwicket have never gone more sweetly off his bat and he pulled the short stuff as if he was teaching some rowdy teenagers an overdue lesson.

He went to his hundred with the third of three pulls for four off the first three balls of a new spell from Alan Igglesden. The runs bad come from 90 balls and included 19 fours, figures which speak most emphatically.

Bicknell had the luck to be dropped when he was 30 by Graham Cowdrey, who failed to hold a hot one to his left at first slip as it had then seemed. There can off Ealham. Otherwise, he also ा निर्म | played some fine strokes, reach-

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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

13 English Rolls: name en-Friday's solution Last Saturday's solution

ACROSS

Feebleness of magistrate without reserves Judged, bridge players bristled (8)
10 Violent windy storm
round North, whirling

daily (9) 11 Flower apears in verge after a day (5)
12 Circular feature of a plant (7)

tered for rallies (7) 14 Plum jam contains ener- 8 gy (5) 15 Practise putting gathers in half of reefer (8)

18 Cool way is to squeeze N with Queen (8) 20 Jag, say, VIP almost turned over (5) 23 A man's blue memoir

25 increasingly eccentric? Girl's on the level (7) 26 Junket with Eastern food (5)

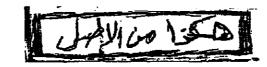
large port (6)

27 Root sign? (9) 28 Triumphs, before talkie

24 Character turned up time and time again (5).

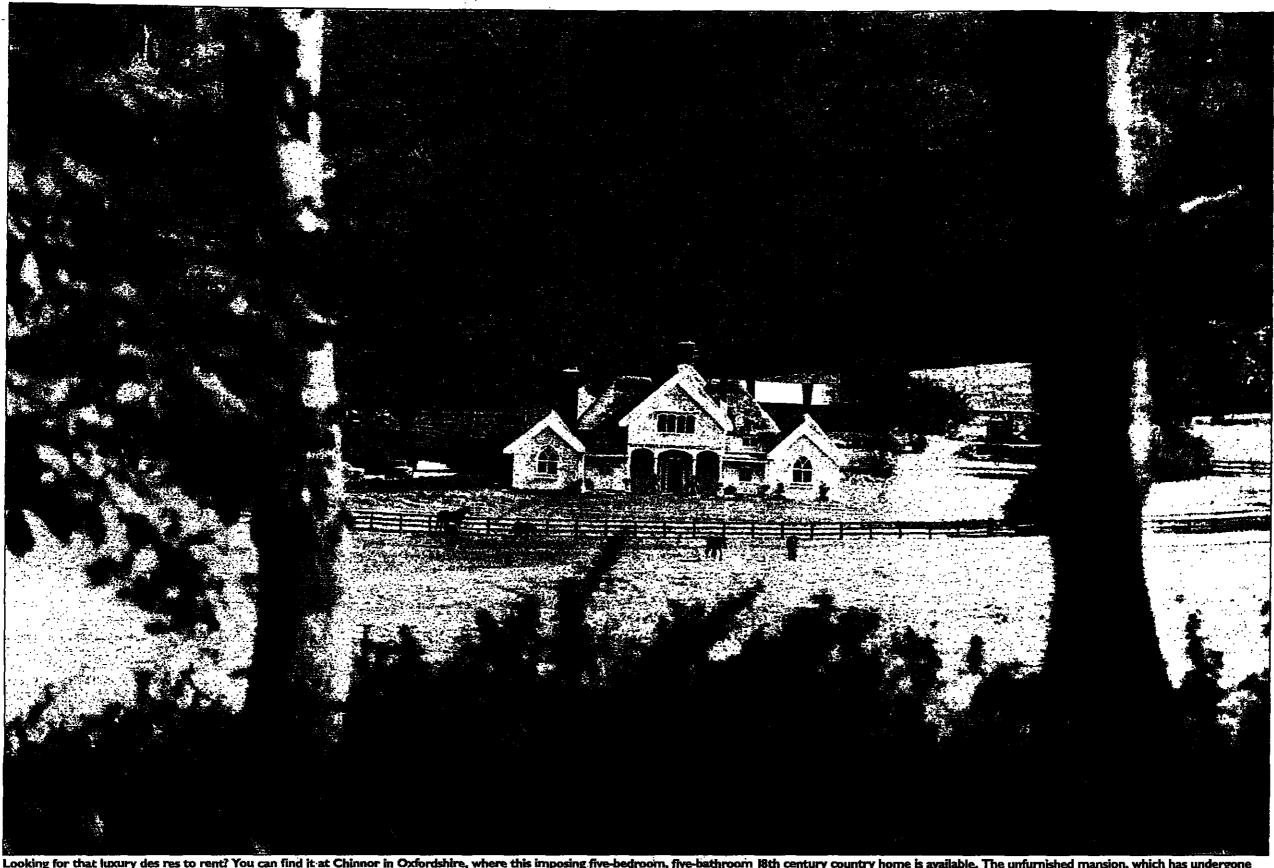
The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winaters' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4818, The Independent, I Canada Square. Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the bux number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: J Schipter, Guildford, C Stekly, Cambridge; Mr Boughen, Gravesend; M Rowntree, London SE3; E Christie, Oxford.

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Looking for that luxury des res to rent? You can find it at Chinnor in Oxfordshire, where this imposing five-bedroom, five-bathroom 18th century country home is available. The unfurnished mansion, which has undergone extensive improvements, has a heated swimming pool and sits in 1.5 acres of grounds. It is within easy reach of London and could be yours for only £ 5,950 a month. Full story: page !!

Beam me up, Scottie. I'll pay by Trekkie card

As the competition between credit card issuers hots up, some are discovering an untapped market among members of so-called affinity groups. Steve McDowell and Nic Cicatti boldly go in search of the ideal card

to strangers. Which is just as well, because every time she uses her credit card to pay a bill Karen ends up striking up a conversation with the person who accepts it.

Her card is issued on behalf of the Star Trek fan club. It is emblazoned with a scene from the famous TV and big-screen series, forcing her to explain where it came from whenever

she hands it Fish Fryers. More than 12,000 tive, is one of them: "I got mine about two years ago. When I "Trekkies" was a student, we used to watch and science every episode by satellite in the fiction fans

house I shared. When I heard there was a card I applied for it immediately. I tend to use it a lot of the . time when I am travelling or to buy clothes. It does generate a lot of comment. People to want to know how I got it and where they can get one.

ping, or anything else for that

matter, marking them out as

one of hundreds of "affinity

groups" each with a distinctively

with credit cards issued by

the Campaign for Real Ale and

Karen, a marketing execu-

for them.

"Some people are also fans. They seem disappointed that they can't get pictures from different series and different

The market for affinity credit cards like this has excapturing about 7 per cent of the market. In each case some kind of

donation is made to the affinity organisation. In the case of designed piece of plastic strictly the Bank of Scotland, one of the Hundreds of thousands of margest players in the market, card users are doing nicely this is a contribution of 0.25 per. cent of the spend on all cards. organisations as diverse as the plus an "activation fee" of around £7.50. National Trust and the RSPCA, Bank of Scotland employs

the National Association of TransNational, an Americancompany with its UK arm based in Reading, to seek out suitable affinity groups. Since the late 1980s, when the bank began issuing, it has donated almost £9m to more than 420 causes and affinities.

Bank of Scotland is rivalled in the market only by US firms Beneficial Bank and MBNA. although Halifax has a number of affirmies and Co-op Bank has some big member cards - the Labour Party and Amnesty International among them. Even Midland has a few.

The rewards for many of the groups are often too attractive to miss out on. The RSPCA, which has more than 70,000 in circulation, has raised slightly less than £1m since it was launched in 1993. A medium-

Karen Giddings enjoys talking card for their weekly shop- with some 2 million users sized charity group, Action sporting clubs like Coventry [it] is, by and large, for those Aid, for example, has benefited by around £400,000.

> The Star Trek card attracts users who are science fans, as well as genuine "Trekkies". It is marketed through advertisements in specialist magazines and cable TV science fiction channels. TransNational is planning a major TV advertising campaign to promote its benefits, beginning next week
> David Williams-Jones,

TransNational's divisional general manager says: "Consumers are polarising in their views and, whether they are doing it for themselves or because they want to do a little bit for others, I don't know. But there are massive numbers of people coming into the market.

"The advantage to these groups is that money comes in on an annuity basis, so each charity knows that a certain time of year it will receive a

This, perhaps, is why around half of all the affinity cards on the markets back charities. Another 20 per cent are held by groups such as the Trekkies. 15 per cent by alumni organisations like the University of Manchester, 10 per cent by City Football Club and the remainder by a variety of clubs and societies such as Mensa.

Any lawful organisation with a database of more than about 7,500 members can find - take them out, he adds. a deal to issue its own cards, although most issuers would baulk at politically or socially sensitive affinity groups.

Professor Steve Worthington, professor of marketing of financial services at Staffordshire University Business 'School, has made a study of affinity cards.

"There has been tremendous growth in this market. But

who missed the boat originally," he says. Part of these cards' popu-

larity is definitely to do with the

shared activities of those who

Whether it is just novelty value or a true sense of altruism which has caused this explosion in the market remains some-

thing of a mystery. In general, affinity cards are not even necessarily good value. APRs and fee structures

vary as much as the conventional credit card market. Bank of Scotland, for example, offers

10 MILLION INVESTORS TRUST FIDELITY

rate on all its cards. That can be bettered by many competitors. Among them are Save &

Prosper, which charges just 12.4 per cent APR on purchases, Saga, which charges 16.9 per cent, and Co-op's Advantage card, which costs 10.9 per cent APR but has no credit limit. Not that this bothers Karen

Giddings: "To be honest, the rate doesn't bother me. I have arranged my finances so that I pay off my credit card bills each month. The important thing is that I get credit every month with a card I enjoy using."

a standard 20.9 per cent APR Star Trek card: 0845 6044460.



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9/GAVINGREEN 12/FIXSEN



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JOIN THE WORLD'S Nº1

Advising doctors Buffett as the Oracle Mini: what a waste Auction blues

2/MAKEOVER 5/DAVIS SPEAKS

NIC CICUTTI

A new look and plenty of new ideas

Welcome to our new-look Your Money section. After the excitement of The Independent's own relaunch earlier this week, a few more surprises. The most important is that this will henceforth be a stand-alone section covering personal finance, property and motoring.

Why these? Because it is becoming increasingly difficult to separate the three subjects. If you buy a house, the chances are you may want to pay it off with a PEP or an endowment. Choosing a car means bank loans and motor insurance.

The new section aims to discuss all these subjects intelligently, to give you choices that help you to make informed decisions on these issues.

This week, we return after a summer break with the hugely popular Money Makeover series. In it, there are always a few ideas that you can take away to discuss with your adviser. We are also adding more columnists. For example, our expert Robin Amlot will be guiding novice "netties" through the World Wide Web's

This summer's wave of building society flotations has created a vast new army of small shareholders. We aim to cater for it with a series, starting shortly, which will explain the A to Z of stock market

Motoring is also being revamped and will become more prominent, and our property section will be given new air to breathe in.

Most importantly, as the title of this section indicates, this is Your Money. I am happy to receive letters and suggestions from you. The last time I made this rash promise I was inundated with letters. Sadly, my two-finger typing speed and pressures of work mean I cannot promise to reply to every letter. But they are all read and appreciated.

Not all money matters are discussed in this section. Some, like today's story about unit-linked insurance company products, are in the business pages of The Independent because they are news stories.

What is instructive about this story is not just which companies deliver the best and worst products. Equally important is who does not feature in the list. Last year, I asked why these firms were refusing to provide information to Money Marketing, the spe-

cialist magazine which compiled the report. The reasons they generally gave were lack of time and resources, or that they no longer sell the products. As I pointed out then, there was a surprising coincidence between companies that are poor performers and those that cited lack of time as their reason for not taking part in the survey.

almost identical. It still includes Cornhill, who so generously invited me to an insurance industry bash only two days after my critical comments about them. Pearl, which stopped selling unit-linked plans two years ago, refused to take part.

Also on the list of "refuseniks" is Barciays Life, one of whose people swore, hand on heart, that the bank genuinely didn't have enough resources to complete the questionnaire they were sent by Money Marketing.

I am going to the same dinner, given by the Association of British Insurers, next week. I wonder what Barclays Life will tell me this time?

MONEY MAKEOVER

Prescription for a young doctor: Start thinking about retirement

Financial planning may seem unnecessary when you have just started out on your career. Making the right decisions early on in life, however, can prevent a lot of worries in the future, as one medical professional discovers.

Name: Deirdre Barton Occupation: Senior house

officer Financial problem: Deirdre, who recently qualified as a doctor, works on medical rotation in a number of hospitals in the Belfast area. She currently earns £22,000 after two years in the profession and hopes to become a consultant physician in the future.

Currently living in rented accommodation, she and her fiancé, also a doctor, intend to buy a property ahead of their marriage next year. The couple, who are of a similar age and are embarked on a similar career path, would like to retire at

Deirdre already has an income protection plan in the event of being unable to work through illness. She needs advice on her prospective house medium-term financial future. The adviser: John Cartwright, principal of Cartwright Asso-ciates, 11 Bresagh Road, Lisburn, (01846-639228) is Northern Ireland regional an of DBS, a network of independent financial advisers. The advice: Dr Barton has sensibly protected her income in the event of illness, with Friends Provident. She should also put in place a realistic amount of life assurance and critical illness cover, which pays out a lump sum should she fall victim to a number of so-called "dread diseases", including heart attack, stroke and cancer.



Deirdre Barton: Getting married soon, she is looking to the future

income of £22,000 a sensible purchase, planning for retire-ment and investing for her £200,000 critical illness cover with a further £200,000 payable

A policy written so that future benefits would increase in line with inflation, on the birth of any children and on ical evidence - would provide Dr Barton with a sound protection base. I would suggest a firm called Pegasus. Cover which pays out the above sum on death or earlier diagnosis of a terminal illness would cost about £9 per month. Critical illness and disability cover for the same amount would cost a further £24,42 a month.

As for the most suitable

On her current annual way to enter into a home purchase, the key is to consider the pattern of her senior colleagues in the medical profession. Two or three house moves in the first 10 to 15 years are not unusual. If she and her husband were to move house often, there is a danger that only a small proportion of the mortgage capivоща се гера with a repayment mortgage The uncertain future of Peps, given government plans to launch separate Individual Sav-

> their needs either. As the couple are members of occupational pension a mortgage of £90,000, it may schemes, a pension mortgage is not an option. They are fairly unusual in that, as doctors,

ings Accounts two years from

now, means this may not fit

into the NHS pension scheme -without the tax benefits - and set up a personal pension to run alongside it, to give even

greater tax advantages. This is cost endownient. The advanallowing top-ups along the way. Given the couple's relative security of employment, early surrender is unlikely; the plan would repay the mortgage in the event of death or earlier critical illness. Given that Dr Barton's first house may have

even be sensible to consider going for a larger low-cost en-

downent at the outset, which

could lead to savings in the

A twin-plan option, offering repayment of the loan in the event of either partner's death, would provide greater flexibility. I would suggest a Norwich Union low-cost endowment, which is not the cheapest but has wider cover than other sion, with premiums of £140 per month for a £90,000 mortgage.

Given that she is planning to get married in the near future and buy a house, perhaps she can wait a little while until she knows what her exact outgoings are likely to be.

With retirement planning in mind, Dr Barton sensibly joined the NHS superannuation scheme. This provides 1/80th of

final salary for each year of service as an annual pension, plus 3/80ths for year of service as tax free cash.

Should Dr Barton retire at 55 she will have only 31 years service, which falls short of the maximum benefits. Furthermore, she will be penalised on a stiding scale for each year of retirement prior to age 60.

So how can she go about increasing her retirement income? Dr Barton currently contributes 6 per cent of her income to her occupational pension, which leaves her 9 per cent that she may use for additional funding and still get full tax

She has three options. She could purchase added years in her occupational scheme. This can be done by paying a lump sum outright or by making monthly contributions throughout the rest of her career. Regular contributions can be quite inflexible and work out expensive in the longer term.

Dr Barton could contribute to her occupational scheme's additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme. That restricts her to one provider, which usually involves smaller annual fund management charges, but may not always offer the best future benefits.

The third option involves contributing to a free-standing additional voluntary contribution scheme (FSAVC). This can be done on a regular annual or monthly contribution or in a series of single contributions. A series of single contributions would be the most costeffective, but requires great

In addition, there are imponderables, such as the costs of raising a family, education funding and so on, that can easily paralyse what started out in life as the perfect solution.

If you want a financial makeover, write to Nic Cicutti, Free Financial Makeover, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London £14 5DL.

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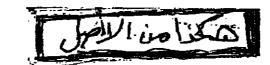
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Sweet dreams of the Aborigines

interest in Aboriginal art is growing, although many still worry about its provenance. In fact, as John Windsor explains, it is strictly regulated.

3

Art curator Georgina Martin, aged 26, rode a wild steer for 13 seconds at the Darwin rodeo in Australia, three seconds longer than prize time. But she failed to carry off any artworks by the Kunwinjku Aborigines during her four-week tour this summer of their rocky homeland, Oenpelli, in Arnhem Land, on the north coast.

She had no ready cash and the region's governmentappointed art adviser seemed to have other ideas about who should get the distinctive ochre paintings on fibrous paper depicting ancestral spirits and animals of the immemorial Aboriginal Dreamtime.

filled the October Gallery in Old Gioucester Street, Bloomsbury, with 39 paintings and carvings supplied by this century's most celebrated promoter of Aboriginal art, Dorothy Bennett, the federal Aboriginal art valuer. Ms Martin worked in her art gallery in

Darwin three years ago. Now aged 83, Mrs Bennett first encountered Aboriginal art - bark paintings - when she was stenographer to an orthopaedic medical expedition that toured Amhem annually between 1954 and 1960.

sale in the October Gallery's exhibition, Keepers of the Mimi Spirit (the Mimi are stick-thin sprites who inhabit Dreamtime) has passed through her experienced hands. After all, what is Aboriginal art?

It is as well that the art for

For most Brits, contempo-

Instead, Ms Martin has. wood carvings are still an enigma. Although dating back 40,000 years, Aboriginal art is the last great tradition of art to be appreciated by the world.

> Sotheby's third annual sale of Important Aboriginal Art - including 92 pieces gathered by Mrs Bennett for an American collector - sold 98 per cent by value and established a new world record price of \$206,000 (£90,640), for a water dreaming painting of 1972. Whereas in London last week, a particularly bubbly opening at the October Gallery yielded only a smattering of red dots.

In Melbourne in June,

The irony is that the Dreamtime paintings by the Knnwinjku of Oenpelli are probably the world's most most rigidly regulated art. The dreaming stories, about ancestral beings who are custodians of the natural law, ritual and correct berary Aboriginal paintings and haviour in a particular place,

can be painted only by sons who have been indoctrinated into them at initiations conducted by

"Age grading" initiations begin at the age of five, the dreaming stories are first heard at 18 and painting them is forbidden until the age 25. Initiates are looked up to and old men who have shirked initiation are regarded as still young, lacking in wisdom.

With the Aborigines' consent, all that can be revealed has been revealed in a book, Kunwinjku Art From Injalak 1991-1992 (Museum Art International, 1994). It is an illustrated catalogue of the latest of five collections commissioned from artists of the highest stature in the region.

The October Gallery has for sale paintings by sons whose fathers' work appears in the book. The ancestral chain of the age-grading system provides their provenance - the copying of another artist's dreamings by a non-initiate is a major transpression. Some Aboriginal peoples permit men without initiated descendants to initiate close relatives or non-related young men of stature. But not the Kunwinjku. The dreamings of an artist without initiate-

heirs die with him. There has

been some backsliding among

minor artist families - but Mrs Bennett has a little list. As well as paintings by Wesley Nganjmirra, nephew of the famous Bobby, there is a painting by one of Wesley's four sons, Luke, of a Mimi spirit and a wallaby (£750). The wallaby is the Mimis' sacred pet. Hunt them and the Mimis will hunt

Keepers of the Mimi Spirit, to 4 October at the October Gallery, 24, Old Gloucester Street, London WC1 (0171-242 7367).

you and send you mad.

INTERNET INVESTOR

Web can put the City at your fingertips

an awful lot more rubbish has been written on it. For most of the last few years the Internet has been hyped out of all proportion to its actual capabilities. After all, you still need a fairly complex computer set-up to be able to access the Internet and the number of bomes with such computers remains in a minority.

The Internet is not the all-powerful super-computer of science fiction, but a linked network or networks of computers around the world, dating back in its earliest form to the Sixties.

The World Wide Web, which allows us to look at pages and interact with them on the Internet, is a child of the Nineties - created at the Cern physics laboratory in Switzerland in 1991. By July 1993 there were 50 Web servers (service providers to individual customers) around the world. Now the Web is doubling in size every few wonths.

Most of us have been unnecessarily blinded by all the science. Who, apart from computer enthusiasts, gets worked up about RAM, ROM, baud, bytes, hard drives and floppies? So this is not a column about hardware, nor, except where absolutely necessary, will I dwell on technicalities.

I am not quite addressing those of you who have a sneaking suspicion that a gigabyte is a hamburger on special offer - but how many of us drive cars, use TV remote controls and programme VCRs without knowing, and without needing to know, how cars, TV sets and VCRs really work?

OK, maybe programming the VCR is beyond many of us, but accessing the Web and making intelligent use of the resources on it shouldn't be.

Right now, you still need the computer and attendant gadgetry to book up to a phone line to surf the Net. But that will change - is changing with the coming of digital TV. Within the next couple of years, the digital set-top box will allow you to surf the Net from your armchair as easily as you change channels now with a TV remote control.

This week Microsoft unveiled its box, developed by the company's WebTV subsidiary in time for the US Christmas

An awful lot of rubbish has been writ- season, Information is downloaded via ten about the World Wide Web - and an ordinary television aerial but to send electronic mail or order services one would still need to hook up to the internet with a modem and phone line. It is not quite as simple as it needs to be yet but the mass-market Internet is not far off now.

Which is all very well, but what is it for? Apart, that is, from inordinate quantities of tacky pornography aimed squarely at adolescent America.

The answer to "Why bother?" for most of us is because what the Web does offer is information, masses and masses of information. Providing you know where to look and what to look for, you can out-trade the city institutions with better information at your fingertips for a fraction of what they spend on research and analysis.

You can see at a glance just which are the best performing investment funds, making your choice of the 1,600 or so funds available rather easier. You can avoid being bamboozied by shady customers trying to sell you dud investments and, from your PC and soon from your armchair, you can shop.

For example, Barclaysquare is Barclays Bank's Internet "shopping mall". It was launched two years ago. You can browse, that is electronically "visit" a number of leading stores including Argos, Victoria Wine and Toys R Us, making purchases with a credit card.

Now, in response to customer demand for the ability to make small purchases, Barclays has launched its own electronic money, or e-cash, called

The system allows users to transfer money from their Barclaycard account to an "electronic wallet" for online use. You simply choose your purchase and pay for it through the retailer's BarclayCoin "cash register".

But just how secure are Internet transactions, and how do you spot the rogues? Most importantly, what Web sites are worth visiting and which are the duds? What special deals - whether mortgages, investments or insurance are available exclusively to Internet users? These are some of the issues we will return to in the next few weeks.

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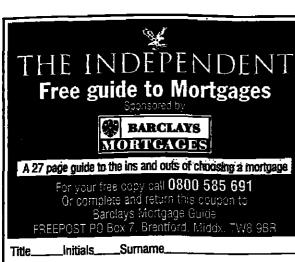
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BRIAN TORA

A black day to remember

I aim a great one for anniversaries. For instance, next did not lead to rising inflation. month is the 10th anniversary of the 1987 stock market crash. This week also by Norman Lamont, he cicommemorated another financial landmark: Black German interest rates. It Wednesday 1992, when we withdrew from the European a British chancellor, used to

Exchange Rate Mechanism. The ERM was conceived as a forerunner to a single European currency. The aim was to use the collective clout of central banks to engineer a smooth transition to one unit of exchange. But it did rather ignore the fact that not all European economies pull frenzied attempts to avoid in the same direction at once.

never a great fan of ERM. It Bank of England throwing was John Major, as Chan-nearly £20bn at the problem, cellor of the Exchequer, who the pound had to withdraw. drove the process forward. He was prime minister by the time the cracks appeared and Norman Lamont had inherited the Chancellorship.

Seen at the time as a reward for his loyal support in ropean monetary union. the leadership contest, it turned out to be a poisoned chalice.

In the early 1990s Britain was still reeling from the effects of recession. Spiralling house prices had been re- Liverpool. placed with negative equity. The time had come for on the German agenda.

the reunification of Germany day just five years ago. had created strains in the pent-up consumer demand in contacted on 0171 6554000;

the former East Germany At the September meeting of finance ministers chaired deavoured to secure rising must have been difficult for being able to set interest rate policy himself, to realise this was not in a German politi-

cian's gift. Of course, it was not just Britain that suffered. Italy was forced out, leaving the field clear for speculators against sterling. The Government's ejection - including bringing To give the Iron Lady her bank rates to 15 per cent due, Margaret Thatcher was were to no avail. Despite the

> There are, of course, lessons to be learned. It is worth remembering that EMU stands for economic and monetary union - not, as many people believe, for Eu-

A single European currency means a single European economy. Sceptics will point to the fact that what is good for Leipzig may not be so efficacious in Lille or

But Brussels remains committed to the expericheaper money to restore ment. It will be interesting to confidence. But this was not see whether it becomes an even greater embarrassment In the summer of 1992, than that of Black Wednes-

economy and the bankers in Brian Tora is chairman of the Frankfurt were anxious to en- investment strategy committee sure that the unleashing of at Greig Middleton. He can be

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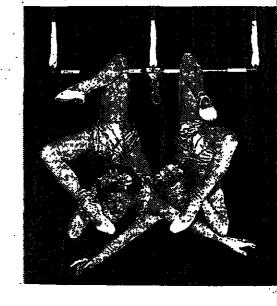
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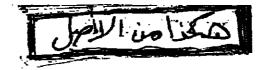


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WOMEN'S PENSIONS

Why am I penalised for marrying again?

Women live eight years longer than men on average, yet their pensions are likely to be £20 a week lower when they retire. As the TUC launches a campaign to raise public awareness on the subject, Nic Gatti asks why women get such a raw deal and what they can do about it.

16r

Joan Warren knows just how she could increase her retirement income. All she needs to do one week before she steps down from her job in three years' time is to divorce her husband. Then. a week after she has retired, she ment's decision - under the bancan marry him again.

If she took this simple step, Ms Warren would be better off to 65. Women under the age of to the tune of up to £18 a week until she dies. The reason? She is caught in a Kafkaesque benefits trap which penalises her. not for divorcing her first husband in 1985 but for marrying again a few years later.

Ms Warren, a property lawyer in Manchester, took a career break to raise her children between 1962 and 1970. During that time, the DSS accepted that her husband's National Insurance contributions could count towards her state pension. After her divorce, the same situation applied.

It was only when she remarried that she discovered her former husband's contridicrous," she says. "I have spent the last few years writing letter after letter to sort this out. I finally asked whether if I got divorced and then remarried, my husband's contributions would apply again. They said this was

Ms Warren's plight is typical of hundreds of thousands of women affected by a series of petty rules such as this one. Almost 40 per cent will retire on a income of less that £40 a week, according to PensionStore, a

telephone pensions company. former Conservative governner of sex equality - to raise the retirement age in stages from 60 35 will be hardest hit by this.

Women's patterns of employment also tend to ensure scheme. they receive less at retirement. Traditionally, women have depended on men for their pensions. But new lifestyles, which include simply living together, make this a less likely option.

Career breaks to care for children or elderly relatives also hit women hardest.

nancial services provider, shows that if a woman aged 20 starts Why should I be told that the a personal pension and then only way I can get a decent pentakes a four-year break at 28 to start a family, she would build up a retirement fund worth a TUC Helpline 0800 882123, quarter less than someone who 10.30am-7.30pm, Mon-Fri

butions would no longer count carried on working to 60. Part towards her pension. "This is he of the problem is that women. who are more likely to stop work at that age, are not allowed to contribute to a pension over that period. Even when they are in work, their contributions are half those of men.

For those who are employed, women are less likely to be in workplaces with occupational schemes. Their traditionally lower pay and fewer years of service mean their pensions will be lower

The Trades Union Congress campaign next week includes a freephone number for advice on Among the most recent any pensions issue. Unions are changes to hit women was the asking the Government for more flexibility in occupational schemes and for unearned income to be allowed as a source for pension contributions.

The TUC also wants a new state pension for women who cannot join an occupational

John Monks, the TUC general secretary, says: "With nearly 12 million people in work, and many of these entitled to some form of pension, this campaign should go some way towards enabling women to make provision for themselves."

As for Joan Warren, any Research by Colonial, the fi- changes may come too late. She says: "I feel this is very unfair. sion is to divorce my husband?"



Warren Caught in a bizarre benefits created by petty rujes Photograph: NTIMC

ODO'S AND DON'TS

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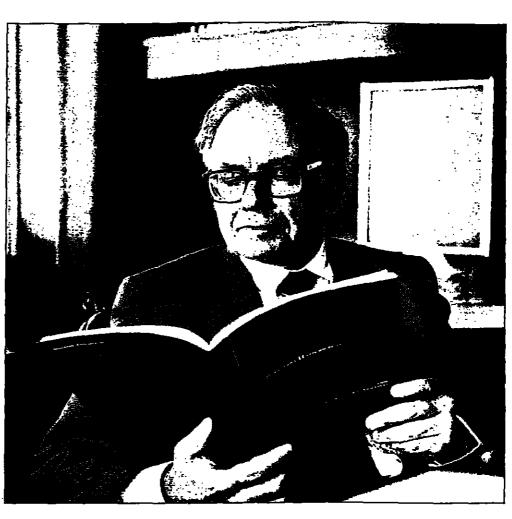
you how much state pension you a company pension top-up will receive. The address is scheme, called Additional Volavailable from any DSS office. untary Contributions (AVCs). Join your occupational pen
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 Assume the state pension is enough. It is too low now and will

be worth less when you retire. · Assume you can live off your husband. You may well have dumped him (or vice versa) by the time you are retired.



JONATHAN DAVIS COLUMN



Warren Buffect His move could be seen as bullish, rather than negative, for shares

Warren Buffett has never had a bad year, so when he sells it is time to watch out

Reports this week that the famous American investor Warren Buffett has been selling some of his shares and has been buying \$10bn of zero coupon bonds instead are the kind of development that every investor ought to stop and ponder hard.

The implications of the move are not quite as obvious as they first appear, however - one reason why the reports were promptly succeeded last Tuesday by a 175-point jump in the Dow Jones index, one of the largest single daily increases on . record.

Surely if even the mighty Buffett has decided that share prices are overvalued, then the market ought to be falling, not rising - and we all ought to be reaching for the Alka-Seltzer?

Well, needless to say, it is not as simple as that. One reason is that the reports have not been confirmed, and won't be for a while yet. Buffett has a policy of never commenting on what he is buying and selling.

It will not be until the publication of the latest statutory report from his company, Berkshire Hathaway, that we find out whether there have in fact been any major changes in his holdings.

But assume for the moment that the reports are broadly true. (As a long-term Buffett watcher, I would not be at all surprised to find that they are.) It is not exactly a shock to discover that Buffett thinks Wall Street is overvalued. He pretty well said as much in his last annual report.

As a long-term investor, he is unlikely to have considered disposing in toto of any of his major investments, but it would be perfectly logical for him to lighten some of his substantial holdings in Coca-Cola, Gillette and others of the strong franchise companies which make up the bulk (by value) of his portfolio. What would such a move signify?

Well, one thing of which Buffett is inordinately (and justifiably) proud of is the fact that he has never had a down year in more than 40 years of investing money on behalf of others. And while

a decade that such a year must in due course arrive, you can be certain that it is not a record which he intends to give up lightly.

Long-term returns are what he is primarily interested in, but if he has been taking steps to shift the balance of his portfolio, so as to try and preserve that record, it would hardly be a surprise. But what about the significance of buying bonds? We do not know exactly what kind of bonds he is said to have been buying, though the reports imply that he has been investing in stripped or zero-coupon government securities.

These are essentially bonds which pay no income but which are priced to produce attractive capital returns over time. Their key features as investments are firstly that their value is determined almost exclusively by movements in market interest rates - if interest rates fall, their value will rise, if interest rates rise, their value will fall - and secondly that they are geared, or leveraged, plays on future interest rate movements.

As a general rule, bonds with the longest terms to maturity and the lowest coupons demonstrate the greatest proportionate increase in price when interest rates change.

By buying zero coupon bonds, Buffett would seem to be making a big bet on the fact that interest rates are likely to fall. (There are also complicated tax reasons why he might want to buy this kind of security rather than a conventional interest-paying bond.)

This is where the development becomes interesting. If it turns out that Buffett does think as dangerously suspect. The past is not the prethat interest rates are going to fall, he is paradoxically aligning himself with one of the key arguments of those who say that Wall Street. however overvalued it may look on conventional criteria, can still sustain its impressive bull run for some time yet.

The steadiness of the long bond rate in the US, now around 6.4 per cent and close to its lowest level for 30 years, is one of the factors which has helped to underpin the strength of the American market in the last two frantic years.

So you could argue that Buffett's move is actually bullish, rather than negative, for share

he has been saying year-in year-out for more than prices, in which case the market's big jump last week should not be a surprise. That overlooks two things, however. One is that the recent strength of Wall Street, just like the London stock market, has been very unbalanced.

It has been the big blue chip companies such as Coca-Cola and Gillette which until recently have been making all the running in the bull market and which look most overvalued.

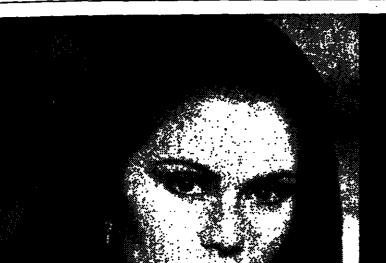
Smaller companies have been left trailing in their wake. It is perfectly consistent to say at one and the same time that big companies of the kind which Buffett tends to own have become overvalued and to think that the long-term outlook for interest rates is still more positive than worriers in the stock market think.

The second thing to remember is that there is no reason why the relationship between bonds and equities cannot change over time. Conventional wisdom now is that equities offer the best long-term return for any investor entering the market, even after allowing for their extra volatility. That kind of argument is one reason why pension funds in this country have around 80 per cent of their assets in shares, rather than

Inflation is the great slayer of bonds, and computer simulation exercises have "proved" that in a traditionally inflation-prone country such as the UK, bonds should have had no place at all in any "optimised" portfolio constructed over the

I have always regarded this kind of argument sent. If Buffett's move turns out to be confirmed. then I suspect it is telling us something important about the relationship between fixed-interest securities and shares in a low-inflation environment

Bonds have had a good 1990s so far and even though conventional wisdom is still that the riskadjusted prospective returns on equities remain superior, nothing is forever in investment. The gilt-equity yield ratio is still in traditional territory, but it is more than possible we have not yet seen the end of movement in the relative riskreward ratio of the two classes.



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6/PERSONAL FINANCE

SURVEY/ OFFSHORE FUNDS

It's not just for the rich and criminals, ordinary savers can prosper as well

Investing offshore is usually seen as being something only for the very rich, expatriates who work and live abroad, people wanting to hide their funds from the tax man or for crooks wanting to launder their loot.

This is misguided. The name of the offshore investment game has changed. As with most financial products, it is now mostly about tax planning rather than tax dodging. There are still tax havens where anything goes. Ordinary UK investors use them at their peril.

Rather, by using the offshore offices of well-known names, usually based in centres such as Dublin, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Luxembourg. you can accumulate funds in a tax-efficient way. Whether looking at retirement, mitigating the effects of inheritance tax, building a nest egg to pay for school fees or an income for a child that will be going to university, offshore investments offer the ability

It is this that makes them an attractive means of saving, not just for the rich but also for the ordinary investor.



Plan ahead: investments can be made in for children and the proceeds handed over when they are older Photograph: John Lawrence

maze of putting funds safely overseas and highlights some typical products. The aim is to give a few ideas of what can be done with your money. We look not only at the regulations and taxation effects of investing offshore This survey guides you through the but also at the types of investment and

the fund managers involved. Before you make a final decision, be prepared to carry out your own research. Most importantly, talk to an expert in this area. Offshore investment is not fantastically difficult. It is not for novices either.



Minimise tax and make the most of greater investment freedom

The past 15 years have seen an explosion in the number of companies offering offshore investments. Their main attractions include the potential to minimise taxes, their greater investment freedom and the opportunity for above-average returns. Tony Lyons explains.

Most well-known banks, building societies, life assurance companies, and unit trust and fund management groups have opened branches in the main offshore inestment centres.

While they can be used by the local population and UK residents working and living abroad, they are mainly for British residents who want to benefit from the advantages they offer.

- Unlike UK investments, where income can be subject to the 20 per cent tax rate and any capital gains over £6,500 are taxed at 40 per cent (with indexation allowances), all income and gains from offshore investments are liable to income tax. Legally, any income from dividends or

interest and any capital gains made offshore has to be declared. As the old saying goes, tax avoidance is fine, but tax evasion is

There are, however, means of deferring tax, and this is the main benefit offered to UK investors by offshore funds. The most popular types of investment today for the offshore investor are the so-called "roll-up" and "distributor" funds.

Investors receive the income gross and then pay income tax on this and capital gains tax

way as many UK growth unit trusts in that they are accumulator funds. This means that all the income and gains made by the fund are reinvested by the fund manager. The investor will only have to pay UK tax when the investment is cashed in, which means taking the proceeds when the investor is paying little or no tax.

For this reason, roll-up funds have a useful role to play in any long-term savings plan such as for retirement. Unlike personal pensions, there is no maximum limit on how much can be invested. Higher-rate taxpayers can use such a savings vehicle, taking the proceeds on retirement when their income has reverted to basic rate.

Or an investment could be made in a handed over to the child at a given age, usually 18 or 21. Alternatively, income from the fund could be paid to the child on a monthly or quarterly basis when they reach 18 to fund university studies. As the child may well have other income, the income would be tax-free.

Nor does the use of roll-up funds restrict investment choice. Offshore management groups usually offer them in what are known as "umbrella funds". Here, an investor has a choice of various underlying funds, covering all areas of investment, to switch in and out of, usually at very low cost or none

Investment bonds offered by the offshore branches of life offices can be used

85 per cent of their income as dividends. area. Anyone who thinks their estate could be liable to this tax should take advice from an independent financial adviser.

Offshore investment also offers other Roll-up funds operate in much the same tax advantages. Fund managers are not restricted by the UK's investment rules and regulations. This has benefits, although it can lead to much higher risks. Tax on any dividends earned by the fund's portfolio is only levied at the local rate, which is often nil. And capital gains made by the fund are

> Also, the only restrictions on what the funds can invest in are those imposed by the managers themselves. This means that, unlike a UK-based fund, if a manager feels that the market is about to crash, he or she can convert the portfolio totally into cash. Funds can also invest in property and other investments not open to authorised

When investing offshore, charges tend child's name. The fund could then be to be higher than for similar mainland investment vehicles. You should reckon on paying around 0.5 to 1 per cent more in annual charges.

But in return you can benefit from better performance. Over the past year, for example, the average growth fund has risen by some 18 per cent in value. This compares with the average offshore growth fund that has gone up some 22 per cent.

For safety and value, it pays the average investor to use an independent financial adviser (IFA) for advice on investing offshore. IFAs will help you avoid the pitfalls and ensure that you understand how your money is being invested and what the

to reduce the impact of inheritance tax. For an adviser near you, contact IFA Protion on 0117 9711177

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SURVEY/ OFFSHORE FUNDS

Although dauntingly different at first sight, many offshore funds run by UK fund managers have identical

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investment objectives to their onshore siblings. But, warns Abigail Montrose. investors should beware of different charges levied on each product.

Offshore investment funds are often overlooked by ordinary investors. But for those who want to defer paying tax on their investment, or who want to widen their choice of investment to include funds not authorised in the UK, such as hedging funds, the offshore route can be attractive.

Most funds are set up as companies, so they issue shares rather than units. However, they are open ended, which means that there is no limit on the number of shares that can be issued - similar to unit trusts. Most have a single price which you buy and sell at.

Many offshore funds are run by large investment houses which are UK household names. such as Barclays, HSBC, Commercial Union, Schroder and Perpetual. Most of them have a subsidiary in one of the main offshore centres of Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man. Luxem-

bourg, Dublin and Bermuda. Often the offshore funds offered by a company are similar to the unit trust funds they run in the UK. In fact, it is not unusual for the same fund manager to run an onshore and an offshore fund version using the same strategy.



The sky's the limit: Offshore centres include Bermuda (above) as well as nearer locations like the Channel Islands

Same funds, different fees

Funds can be single funds or umbrella funds. Umbrella funds are the more diverse of the two as they house a range of subfunds, from four to 25 funds, and it is usually cheap and easy to switch money between the subfunds. Companies offering umbrella funds include Guinness Flight Hambro, Templeton, Fi- to three times their quoted the total annual percentage delity. Flemings and Scottish

Although annual manage-

charges. Last year, the offshore fund research specialist Fitzrovia International compared the costs of offshore funds with onshore unit trusts and discovered steps to improve its charging that in some cases offshore in- structure, but investors should vestment funds were charging up

Among companies doing this ment charges on offshore funds was Sun Life European Growth look similar to their equivalent Portfolio fund. It quoted an

management fees in hidden

expenses.

onshore unit trusts, investors annual management fee of 1.5 need to check closely for extra per cent, but once all the extra annual charges were added together, the real charge was almost 5 per cent.

> Sun Life has since taken ask offshore fund managers for charges on an offshore fund before committing themselves.

Paul Moulton, managing director of Fitzrovia International, says: "Charges on off-

shore funds are marginally more expensive on average than their almost identical onshore funds run by the same companies. But this is not always the case."

Where an investment house offers an offshore version of one of its onshore funds, the investment performance of the two funds tends to be similar. Differences are likely to occur only where the charges are different, or if one of the funds suddealy has a large inflow or outflow of investment money.

Take your pick where you stash your cash

be based in one of several offshore centres, including Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Luxembourg, Dublin and even Bermuda. But the choice of of particular centre is largely irrelevant, based largely on historical factors and on covenience at the time the subsidiary was set up. Sometimes, subsidiaries will be established in more than one offshore centre, offering different products and services from the different sites.

Recently, Luxembourg and Dublin have become very popular offshore centres for companies as they can offer Ucits funds (Undertakings for Collective

Investment in Transferable Securities). Ucits are becoming the standard type of fund, sold across Europe. So for a company with European aspirations, this is the best type of fund to offer.

Because of the tax breaks offered by the governments in Dublin and Luxemhourg, these are the ideal centres to opcrate Ucits from.

More than 40 life insurance companies have an offshore branches in Luxembourg. including Commercial Union and Scottish Equitable, while numerous investment houses and banks also have offices there. including Aberdeen Fund Managers, Barclays, Flemings, Fidelity, Foreign & Colonial, GT Global, HSBC, Invesco, Jupiter. Lloyds Bank, Mercury Asset Management, Rothschild and Schroders.

Dublin houses the offshore subsidiaries of equally well known names, including Abbey National, Scottish Amicable, Barings, Coutts & Co. Prolific, Lazards, Irish

Life, Midland Life, and Old Mutual. Jersey has long been one of the world's vice and know what the risks are. top offshore centres. It is the home to the

The subsidiaries of investment houses, in- offshore offices of many UK companies, surers, banks and building societies may including Barclays, Gartmore, Hill Samuel, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, Newton fund managers, Perpetual, Pru-

dential, TSB, Flemings and many more. The other popular Channel Island for the offshore arms of investment houses is Guernsey. Companies with offices in Guernsey include Guinness Flight, Kleinwort Benson, Rothschilds, Credit Suisse Schroders and Lloyds Bank.

The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are the favoured homes for banks and building societies offering offshore

Abbey Nutional, Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Halifax, Hill Samuel Bank, Lloyds, Midland, NatWest and the Royal Bank of Scotland are all in Jersey.

Alliance & Leicester, Allied Dunbar Bank, Bradford & Bingley, Halifax, Midland and Nationwide are on the Isle of

The address and telephone number of a company's offshore office can usually be obtained by contacting its UK head office

for details. There are other more exotic locations such as Anguilla, Antigua, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin

Islands, the Cayman Islands, Madeira, Malta. Netherlands Antilles, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Vincent. But the funds based there are not recognised by the UK Securities and In-

vestments Board (SIB), the main City financial regulator. Many of the management groups will be unfamiliar to UK investors. Common sense suggests they should not be looked

at unless investors have received good ad-

-Abigail Montrose



All kinds of institutions offshore funds or accounts

Don't stray too far from home if you want security

From Alderney to Uruguay, there are over 40 locations which offer the kind of favourable tax environment that some investors seek. But to invest wisely you should follow a few basic rules – or stick to safer fixed interest products, writes Simon Read.

Security is essential when it comes to handing money over. You want to feel that your inyestment is safe and that the financial authorities are trustworthy. Are you comfortable dealing with the bankers on the tiny East Caribbean twin islands of St Kitts and Nevis, for instance, or would you feel happier with your money closer to home?

Accessibility is the third key aspect. There are three elements to this - communication, infrastructure and currency. You will want regular information on your savings, so choosing an English-speaking centre makes sense. Time zones are important.

You may want to visit your offshore financial centre at some stage. If so, Jersey is just an hour or so flying time away from the mainland, while Mauritius is the almost half way round the world. Infrastructure means having access to appropriate local experts, such as lawyers and accountants.

Finally, currency is important. Local currencies can be much more volatile than the main international ones. If you

lars, or even the French franc, you will need to find centres that allow you to do so.

Realistically, most UK investors should be keeping the choices down to the Channel Islands - either Jersey or Guernsey - the Isle of Man, Eire and mainland Europe, chiefly Switzerland or Luxem-

The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have "designated territory status in the UK. which means that their regulatory standards are deemed equal to those in Britain.

Going offshore with your savings may seem exciting. But finding a safe home for a lumpsum investment soon brings investors back down to earth. Fixed-interest bonds may not sparkle in performance terms, but they are usually far safer than investing in equities.

Generally, apart from lowyielding instant deposit accounts, the minimum investment term usually starts from six months and extends up to five years or more. The longer the investment term, the better the rate offered.

The amount you invest will also affect the rate of return, with larger sums getting more interest. Minimum investment levels can start as low as £500 with Portman Channel Islands, the offshore subsidiary of the Portman Building Society. Based on Alderney, one of the smaller Channel Islands, it will pay a minimum rate of interest of 7.25 per cent on lump sums monthly list of top rates.

deposited for one year. products pay interest at the quiries: 01692 500665.

want to invest in sterling or dol- end of the investment return when the account matures. However, if you want interest paid monthly, quarterly, halfyearly or annually, there is a wide choice.

On offer at the moment, you can get 7.45 per cent a year over five years for an investment of £10,000 or more at Halifax International (Jersey). Shorter investment periods will mean lower interest rates. So for four years, Halifax pays 7.4 per cent. for three years 7.3 per cent, down to 6.85 per cent if you invest for just six months.

At the offshore Co-operative Bank, a three-year fixed investment will yield 7.25 per cent, although interest is not compounded, while Barclays Finance (Guernsey) is paying 7 per cent over five years. Other high street institutions offering fixed-rate accounts at their offshore subsidiaries include Bank of Scotland, Britannia International, National Westminster (Jersey), Northern Rock and

TSB Bank Channel Islands. If you're prepared to try one of the less well-known names it may be worth tracking down companies such as ESB Bank (IOM), Isle of Man Bank, Newcastle Bank (Gibraltar), Northern Offshore Banking and Sun Banking Corp (Jersey).

which offer fixed-rate accounts. Details of the latest rates are available by calling these companies direct or by asking at their high street branches. MoneyFacts, the specialist financial magazine, publishes a

Most fixed-rate financial MoneyFacts subscription en-

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9/MOTORING



A host of Britain's most popular cars will be replaced over the next year including the Escort, Astra

and Golf, and there will also be new offerings from BMW, Porsche. Citroën, Renault, and even Skoda. Gavin Green reports on what's on offer

If you're about to buy a new Golf, Escort or Astra - don't. Or at least make sure you get a big discount. Along with a throng of other ageing cars, they are soon to be replaced by new and probably better cars. Indeed, the next 12 months will see more interesting new models than any year in

Last week's Frankfurt show previewed some. But many others are still secret. And the cars still under wraps vary from a new version of Britain's perennial bestseller, the Ford Escort, to a fresh iteration of that sporty style icon, the BMW 3-series.

The busiest segment for new car launches will be in the small family hatch sector, the biggest-selling class in Britain, as the three traditional top-selling models are belatedly pensioned off.

The new Escort takes its bow in a year's time. In line with recent Ford thinking, it is likely to be the boldest-styled car in the class - a far cry from the mediocre current model. Cabriolet and estate versions of the new Escort will come later; initially, we'll see only the hatch and saloon models.

The Escort's great rival, the Astra, is also ageing and incompetent; it is replaced next spring by a handsome if conservative car that promises great safety and fuel economy. It also sires a promising MPV offspring, the Zafira, which goes on sale next

Europe's best-selling car, the VW Golf, is replaced in the UK next year by the new mid next year. It'll be safer, roomier and

GG-SP 997

It looks much like the old model - always a handsome car - but scores on extra safety and better economy. There will be three sporty versions of the new Golf: the turbo GTi, a VR5 and a VR6. The base model will cost £12,000 - a modest increase on the current vehicle, but good value considering its higher specification (which includes anti-lock brakes and twin airbags).

Still in the small family hatch class, Citroën's new Xsara hits the showrooms in November. It replaces the ZX, which did well in Britain, giving flair-free but reliable service. The Xsara is a car of the same breed: utterly anonymous but competent.

The recent Frankfurt show was full of baby hatches a class or two smaller than the Xsara or Escort; most are coming to the UK in the next year. The most intriguing, and expensive, is the new Mercedes A-class - a car of Metro external proportions but Mondeo space, thanks to its ingenious underfloor mechanicals. It arrives in the UK in spring, and costs from about £13,000. It is very likely the cleverest car concept we've seen in a decade.

More conventional, and probably more stylish, will be the new Renault Clio. Nicole's favourite hatchback gets revamped

syncratic Gallic charm. Another French hatchback icon to be replaced next year is the Peugeot 205. Peugeot originally intended to replace the 205 jointly with the 106 and 306 models - one slightly smaller

than the 205, one slightly bigger. But the

world wanted a direct successor, and that's

what we'll get when the new 206 is unveiled

at next autumn's Paris show. Even smaller is the new Fiat Seicento, Fiat's baby car replacement for the popular Cinquecento. The new Seicento (600) - rounder, roomier and more stylish than the old Cinquecento, though using most of the older car's mechanicals - will debut at next March's Geneva show.

Another sub-Fiesta-sized tot due to be shown at the Geneva show is the new VW Lupo. It's mechanically very similar to the Arosa, made by VW's Spanish affiliate, Seat. It will rival the Ford Ka and the Fiat 600. VW is in for a busy year. On top of the new Golf and Lupo, it's also unveiling the new Beetle at the Detroit show in January. UK sales are likely to start in late '98. Round and cuddly like the old Beetle, the new one is nonetheless commendably hitech and shares most of its mechanicals with the new Golf.

version, previewed last week at Frankfurt. far more modern, but will retain its idio- iconic cars that has retained its exclusivi- come at a very much lower price.

ty and class cachet, despite being as regular as Ray-Bans in England's more affluent areas. It's been a huge hit, although its popularity is starting to crumble, mainly to the benefit of the more modern Audi A4. The new 3-series aims to win back the deserters, plus a new breed of style-conscious

In typical BMW style, the new model looks rather like the old one, but sleeker and sportier. Picture a scaled-down version of the current 5-series, and you'll get the idea. Most of the mechanicals are carried over, including the usual range of gutsy

fours and silky smooth straight-sixes. Ford will hope to steal a few BMW buyers with its new Cougar coupé, big brother to the "Steve McQueen" Puma, which hits the streets next spring. It's based on the Mondeo, and uses both 2.0-litre four and V6 motors, but looks nothing like Ford's family favourite. It's a rakish, handsome car, which bears more than a passing resemblance to Ford's MC2 concept car at Frankfurt.

Heading further upmarket, we'll also see a revised and improved Aston Martin DB7 (using many Jaguar XK8 parts), the gorgeous Alfa 156 (set to give the new BMW 3-series a hard time), the Alfa 166 executive car (which replaces the 164, and goes on sale late next year), a bold-looking Audi coupé called the TT, an attractive 4x4 offroad Mercedes, the M-class, which will probably be vastly superior to the ageing Land Rover Discovery, and a new S-class, Mercedes' top-line model, due to be replaced in late '98. The new Porsche 911 debuts in the UK just after next month's London show. Most surprising new car of 1998 may be a Skoda. The old Skoda jokes are now about as funny as Beadle's About. Since VW took control of the Czech company with the chequered past, quality has been excellent. But the best Skoda of all has yet to reach Britain. The new Octavia comes next June. It's as good as most ri-The old BMW 3-series is one of those vals in the Mondeo/Vectra class, yet will

The smoothly styled Peugeot

406 Coupé: created by

Pininfarina of Ferrari fame

GAVIN GREEN

Some big mistakes in the planning of a new small car

decision to unveil the new Mini at last week's Frankfurt Show, three years before sales start, may have been made for the wrong reason - to spike the PR guns of its arch rival, Mercedes-Benz, More worrying, the new Mini may be wrong car for the new mil-

To understand the BMW decision to show the car so early, cast your mind back to the Geneva Show in March, where Mcrcedes-Benz scored all the brownie points with its new Aclass, lauded as the most innovative new small car since the original Mini. BMW directors were facing a similar PR disaster at Frankfurt, Europe's biggest motor show, and what's more important, a show on home territory. Mercedes was due to unveil the Smart,the innovative little "city coupé" jointly funded by Swatch. the watch people. Front page headlines were likely. Drastic action was needed. And taken.

BMW would take the wraps off its biggest small-car gun - the new Mini Rover, now used to doing what it is told, was told to get a car ready only six weeks ago.

It worked. Even the German press who attended the press unveiling at a film studio in one of Frankfurt's scruffiest corners. swarmed all over the new Mini. and largely ignored BMW's other announcements - a new 400bhp V8 M5 super-saloon, the oddhall half-

car/half-bike C1, and the decision to supply Formula One engines to Williams from the year 2000. The Mini probably the most eagerly anticipated new car in the world - was feted like a new-age star.

Unfortunately -and this is where BMW has miscued - it is not. It will no doubt sell in the required numbers -100,000 worldwide, in countries including America.

Australia, Japan least it will for a few years. But for those who were hoping to see an inventive, forward-thinking tot - as everyone who ventured to the Frankfurt press briefing were - the new Mini disappoints.

vastly more far-

sighted. Even the Rover engineers underwhelmed by it at Frankfurt. BMW masters, knew the enormity of the challenge - to replace starting in early 2000, and sales an icon. And they copped out. The new Mini could be the product of any car maker - from Nissan to Ford - rather than the invention of the company with the heritage of the original Mini behind it. "We're hoping the next new Mini, after this one, will be really creative," said one, almost apologetically.

"We had a choice of two ways to go," said Rover design boss Geoff Upex, at Frankfurt. "We could have tried to reinvent the small car, as Sir Alec Issigonis did 40 ryingly for BMW, and Rover, years ago. Or we could have cre-

BMW's surprise ated a car that carried over most of the Mini cues, but was much more modern and sporty, and more in tune with modern times. We chose the latter path."

You can't blame them. But with Mercedes in such a creative mood, and rivals Audi also unveiling a small car vastly more advanced than the new Mini, the AL2, there must be doubts whether the new Mini will be able to compete, at least in the long term. Few technical details were officially announced at Frankfurt. but it is known that the new Mini will use a choice of 1.4 and 1.6 four-cylinder motors, made at a joint venture Chrysler/BMW factory in Brazil. The engine is not especially high-tech, although it is allegedly very inexpensive to make. (Rover insiders imply that the current K-series, made in Britain, is a more advanced en-

The body will be steel, although there is talk - Smart-like - of the body panels being easily changed, so that an owner can change his or her car's colour. The springs will be conventional steel. Nor will the car be especially roomy, although it will be much better than the current Mini. BMW says style was especially important. "We didn't want a tall, dumpy looking car," said one ennineer, clearly taking a snipe at the Mercedes A-class.

It will be 3.6 metres long, which is about the length of the Rover 100/Metro (which the new Mini also replaces), and may be

available in five-

door hatch, as well as three-door guise. There will be three basic versions: Mini, For those Cooper and Cooper S. Prices will start who hoped at about £12,000 in Europe, although the Cooper S will be a forward nearer £14,000. In addition, there are likely to be pick-up, cabriolet and van offshoots. There's even talk of an oldstyle woody-wagon. linlike the old Mini, the new one is a separate brand

to see

thinking

tot, the

new Mini

part of the Rover and Europe - to people who fan- car range. Mini, like MG and cy a designer-accessory small car Land Rover, is a marque unto itthat's cute, pretty, fun to drive and self. As such, it could be sold by has BMW-style kudos. Or at Rover or BMW dealers. In America, it is likely to be through the latter.

- it's not merely

Nine different designs were submitted, all from either from BMW or Rover. "The winning design was one of Rover's own, For all the BMW PR razz- said Geoff Upex. "But we natumatazz, the A-class and the Smart rally incorporated some of the better ideas submitted by BMW." Amazingly, the car bears an uncanny resemblance to an old dewho conceived it seemed rather sign rough done by Issigonis more than 30 years ago. The car It's as though they and their will be made in Longbridge, Birmingham, with production commencing later that year.

Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with a handsome, sporty, mechanically conservative little car. The world is full of such vehicles. But somehow the new Mini deserves to be

It is a product of a marketing need and opportunity, at a time when the world was looking for - and needs - a mechanical breakthrough. Other companies must now answer the call. Worsome appear to be doing so.

PEUGOT 406 COUPE

Looking [↑] good for a lot less dosh

The new Peugeot 406 Coupé passes the most important test of any coupé: it feels fast and looks glamourous. John Simister gives the 2.0-litre version the road-test lowdown, and finds a good-value, good-quality ride

A colleague of mine took a Peugeot 406 Coupé home on trial a few nights ago. She parked it outside her house as usual, but kept sneaking to the window to steal another look. She was smitten.

The Peugeot, then, passed the test to which every coupe, by virtue of what it is, must take. A coupé which looks like a frump has missed the point. If you buy a coupé you are paying more for less, in quantitative terms, but you are gaining in style. A coupe should look like an extravagance.

The Pengeot does it well. It didn't mat-

ter that this 406 Coupé had the humbler, 2.0-litre engine of the two on offer, rather than the

more muscular 3.0-litre V6. The two cars have little more than wheel and tyre size differences to distinguish them otherwise. The shape is subtle, with no sharp edges but enough tension to make it seem to be moving. Now, it would be sad if it proved a pudding to drive, but I'm pleased to report that the Peugeot passes this test, too. I've always liked the way 406s move along.

That said, it doesn't cushion its occupants from humps quite as well as its saloon sibling. The wider wheels and lower-profile tyres are to blame, but they prove their worth when the road twists. Vig-

be less interactive than you'd get from a BMW 3-series Coupé, say, as the Peugeot is pulled by its front wheels, but ultimately it will corner faster and feel more secure.

The V6, in particular, has rather good brakes as well - large Brembo units which bring this 406 to a halt more smoothly and less snatchily than those of lesser versions. And it is genuinely fast, its 194bhp rising from a deep growl to a refined but slightly beaty blare. The 2.0-litre version can't compete, but is still no visual charlatan.

Unlike some coupés, the 406 is a feasible four-seater thanks to rear seats recessed to give sensible headroom. Leather trim comes only with the Executive version orous grip, crisper steering than the saloon, of the V6 (£26,420 against the regular V6's

and a fluid stringing-together of bends £23,620, which also gets you a few other proves quite delightful. The experience may luxuries), but even so it's a plush, wellwrought cabin. The dashboard is standard apart from some added brightwork, however, and it breaks the beauty spell a bit.

In coupé terms, the 406 is a bargain. It costs about £3,000 more than a 406 saloon. but it's a lot cheaper than a comparable Mercedes-Benz. Maybe there's no such thing as sensible money for coupes. But if there is, the Peugcot is where you'd put it. Peugeot 406 V6 Coupé Specifications

Price: £23,620. Engine: 2,946cc V6, 24 valves, 194bhp at 6,250rpm. Five-speed gearbox, front-wheel drive. Performance: top speed 143mph, 0-60 in 7.5sec. Fuel consumption: 21-26mpg, but still a car of honed

MY WORST CAR

Drop top, drop dead looks, and dropping bits underneath



Ups and downs: the Triumph Vitesse

top, and seemed to have everything ... two-litre engine, overdrive and window stickers from Biarritz. The night we bought our secondton on a remote stretch of the M4. Once was enough. That baby sure adrift. Up the M6 to Manchester and a front wheel bearing had to down, on a summer's day, it had ready British Leyland kind. Arriving at one's destination one cut

It was deep blue with a cream soft- a dash in the sleek open-top roadster with the gorgeous double headtended to be spend recovering from hand Triumph Vitesse we tried the grooming knotted hair. One weekmuch for our car, which mysteriflew ... up and down. We went to ously developed a jammed valve, Cornwall and the prop shaft came and bent pushrod. Some months later serious rust became apparent. Valedictions to the Vitesse. The unbe replaced. Still, with the hood lucky buyer said he wanted it because he had to drive from London glamour, albeit of the rough and to north Wales every weekend. I stifled my laughter.

lights, though the next few hours the buffeting of the wind and end Yorkshire beckoned. It was too

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10/PROPERTY

HOME FRONT

Fired up with a passion for flame (repro if necessary)

A roaring fire is a superb asset but in some houses, it's just not feasible to have naked flames licking away. In National Fireplace Month, Rosalind Russell looks at some other ways of getting some natural warmth into your home

There's nothing like an old having no focal point in the sitflame to take the chill out of an ting room, other than the TV, autumn evening. When singerhaving no chimney doesn't rule songwriter Peter "She's A out having a fire. Some gas fires Lady" Skellern and his wife Di- use a fan to draw the gas through the wall vent to outside ana moved into their watersdie air. Glass-fronted, enclosed solhome in Fowey, Cornwall, putting in a fire was one of the id fuel fires can have a cast iron first changes they made. flue running up the wall and It was a challenge for the invented through the roof. Convected warm-air units will give staller, as access is down steep steps, the nearest parking was more heat for your money. a quarter of a mile away and

ered by boat. The Skellerns consider their £1,000, before you start looking gas-fired Jetmaster well worth at fireplaces. the effort. And now, in National Amazing Grates in London, are Fireplace Month (you hadn't noticed?) the trade association

heavy goods have to be deliv-

hopes everyone else will feel the same. "A fireplace certainly makes it easier to sell a house. be it medieval or modern," says Martin Phillips, of Phillips & Stubbs estate agents in Kent. Who wants to sit on a sofa staring at a blank wall?"

with gas coal fire and hearth will cost around £750, but they go Fireplaces virtually disappeared during the Eighties up to £1,500 for something like a rare serpentine mantel firewhen developers running on a tight profit margin regarded a place made in 1851 for the Great Exhibition in London. At fireplace an an optional extra. the Antique Fireplace Ware-Fortunately, if you now regret house, a classic Victorian marble surround will cost from £395, plus VAT, delivery and installation, but go up to £6,000 for something very grand, called The Windsor. Stone surrounds are expensive in natural Portland or Bath stone, but reconstructed stone reduces the price by about half. Cast-iron inserts, baskets, firebacks and hearths all cost extra. You can have a complete chimney system installed, but you For information on the Nation-

wouldn't get any change from al Fireplace Association, current yearbook 0800 521611. Solid Fuel Association 0800 600 000. Real fires, says Liz Martin of Amazing Grates 0181 883 9590. The Antique Fireplace Warehouse 0171 627 1410.

"Before, 95 per cent of peo-

ple who bought a fireplace had

a gas coal-effect fire. Now I

would say 25 per cent intend to

A good quality pine mantel,

have a real fire. There's noth-

ing like one."



mantel fireplace made for the Great Exhibition. Top right: repro of mid-8th century English hand carved fireplace in marble. Below right, 19th century Belgian chimneypiece in Sicilian marble

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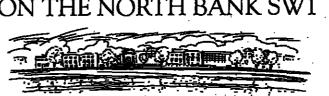
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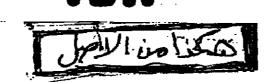
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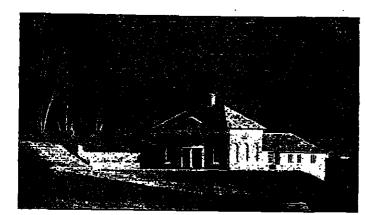
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The Autumn overseas property exhibition at: The Cumberland Hotel.

PROPERTY SHOW

... and three to keep the home fires burning



The Temple of Pan, a Grade II* listed folly consultation with English Heritage and the is one of several built on the Halswell Estate near Taunton in Somerset, and the only one Hamstone Gothic style fireplace with brick which will be in private ownership. It was put lining. The sitting room has a plain on the market as a derelict building last year, but has been restored and converted into four- through Jackson-Stops for £485,000 (01823 bedroom home. Work was done in 325144).

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EM

olf and roperties

octuga) o ESAN_IXX

drawing room has been fitted with a Victorian marble mantelpiece. For sale



The Water Tower, a converted Victorian tow- The 23ft sitting room was given an Adam style er on the Craigweil Manor estate near fireplace with marble hearth and a gas log ef-Chichester, is on a footpath leading to the fect coal fire. Now with three bedrooms, a towbeach of Aldwick Bay. Built of industrial brick. er room (currently fitted as a gym) and decorated with stilted arches, it was converted conservatory, it is for sale through GA Town

in 1984 when the water tank was removed. & Country for £250,000 (01243 826311).



ple of fireplaces wide enough for the stoutest 15th century three-bedroom house is more than nine feet wide so the owners have been able to fit in an old wooden settle within the

The Quarter House, near Tenterden in Kent, brick hearth. The dining room fireplace is a is a Grade II listed thatched house with a coumore modest 6ft3ins wide. The two-and-a-half acre gardens include traditional cottage Santa. The one in the drawing room of the plants like honeysuckle, foxgloves, cow parsley and plum and damson trees. For sale through Phillips & Stubbs for £265,000 (01797 227338).



Kingston Grove: spacious living for a month

Photograph:

A grand vista opens for renting

Renting is back in fashion, despite, or because of, relentlessly rising prices. Penny Jackson considers the plums on offer

home shows a streak of Eighties madness, when renting was regarded as almost irresponsithe south east gained momentum, as many feared, it has continued to flourish and is no longer regarded as a second-rate option. Penny Part-Head, Central London lettings director for Savills Research. Hamptons International, sees

more people here to become landlords," she says."The big difference is that in the Eighties they were trying to make money from their own homes by constantly trading up."

Those whose fingers were To many the scramble to buy a burned and became reluctant landlords are a dwindling band as properties regain their former value. Hamptons find with the ble. But the rental sector has 10 London properties that on evolved. Far from faltering as average they are losing to sales the sales market in London and each month, others more committed to long-term letting are waiting to step in, even though rental yields in London have fallen to 8 per cent, almost their all-time 1989 low, according to "Among them are a grow-

ing come of age. "It has been want to combine investment erage rental yield by area; avtaken over to such an extent by . with the needs of their offoverseas, that it is now far had someone the other day yield available is from letting a a great deal of money on a house them out. Landlords like it more independent of the sales with a 12-year-old buying a flat flat in the South-west. It also if they want top prices. Hamp- too."

market. This has encouraged for his use as a student."

While most parents might prefer to see the offer of a university place first, in cities like Nottingham, terrace houses are being snapped up by small investors. In some cases, students themselves are raising the money to buy. The same story is being repeated in university towns across the country where there is a shortage of accommodation. The willingness of banks and building societies to give loans and the poor returns on savings elsewhere have Agencies has for the first time produced a residential lettings report, similar to its successful Home Report, which gives the national average time it takes to erage rental values and a tenant

shows that 27 per cent of ten- tons, which is marketing ants were previously home owners and well over half of those are families and couples. The shortage of family houses means that even though prices are rising people are continuing to sell while the going is good and rent

before buying again. That is particularly true of those moving from town to £5,950 a month. It is in these country, which is in turn putting sought-after spots close to good a premium on country houses. "Many owners who might have let their houses while going abroad are selling because they fuelled this trend. Black Horse are being offered such whacking good prices," says Anna Sugden of Strutt & Parker. She also finds that the new safety anteed for a specified period, regulations are making it very difficult for owners to let their the rental sector as finally hav- ing number of parents who let a property (four weeks); av- property furnished. Those who want to hang to hang on to their homes and are aiming for the investors, particularly from spring," says Ms Parr-Head. "I profile. It shows the highest corporate market have to lavish

Kingston Grove, Oxfordshire. (above) says the owners have extensively refurbished it with a new kitchen, bathrooms and expensive carpets and curtains. Since it is in more than of acre of grounds with a heated pool, yet close to London, it is likely to be let as a weekend house, for transport links that tenants are beginning to press for agreements that give them security of tenure. In the past eight months, Part-Head has seen an increasing interest in premium leases. which means a tenancy is guarsuch as three years, in return for the whole rent in advance.

"Far from wanting flexibility, these tenants want the peace of mind that comes with knowing the landlord cannot get

THE LANDLORD'S STORY: 'FOOLED BY PERSUASIVE MARKETING

Kittni Chan placed the managment of her flat in Weston-Super-Mare with a

structed the agents to make reparation persuasive marketing.

from the deposit but found out they had last month's rent. I also discovered that they had failed to get the gas fires checked and that there was a leak. I was When the tenants moved out last year unable to pursue an insurance claim bethey had caused extensive damage to cause the paperwork had been lost by carpets, curtains and doors as well as the agents. I was paying 17 per cent leaving delapidated furniture. I had infor this service and had been fooled by

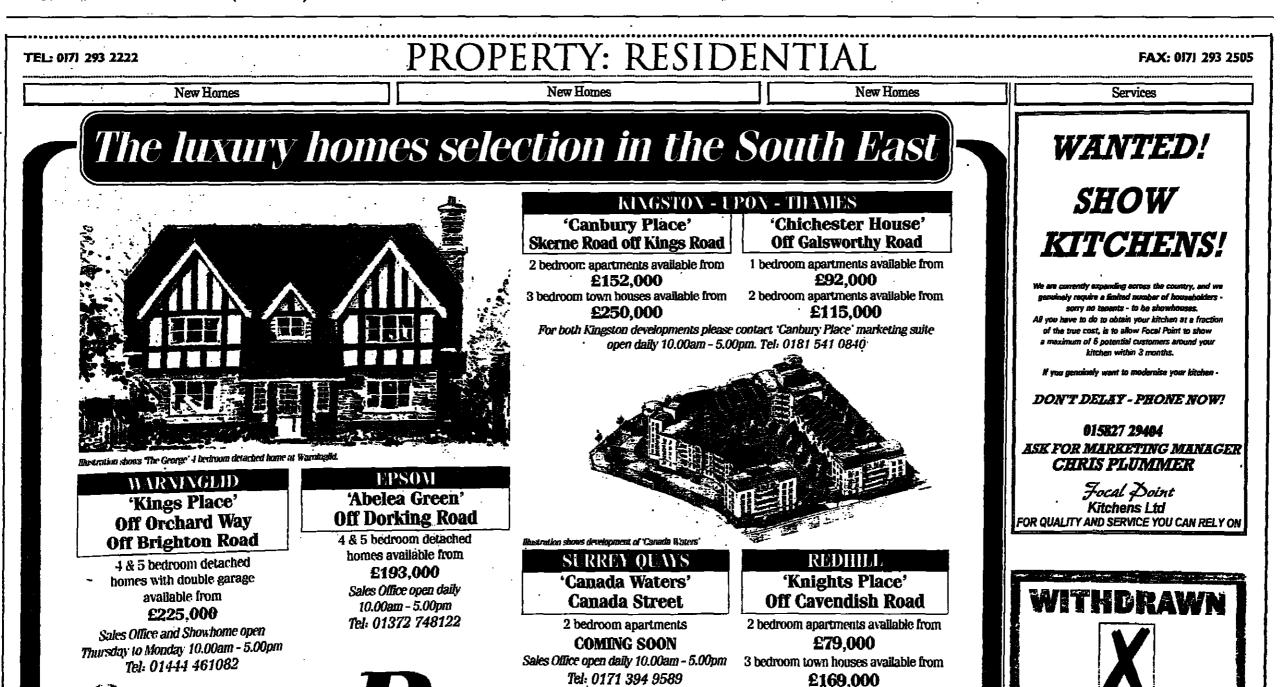
> Sales Office open daily 10.00am - 5.00pm Tel: 01737 760794

THE TENANT'S STORY: 'A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN'

Sarah Foster has a flat in

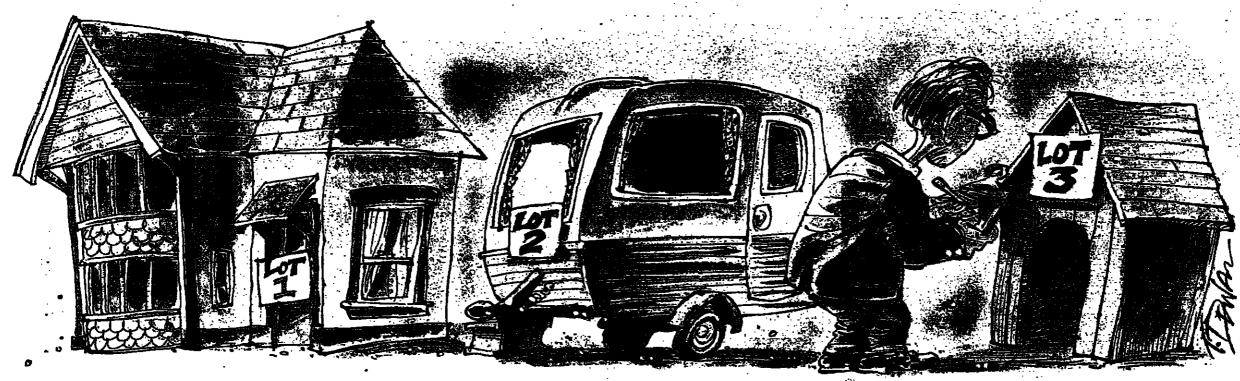
It was disastrous from the beginning, when the agency put enormous pressure on me to commit myself within 24 to clean it myself. The gas meter had a proper contract.

been removed because bills had not been After the agents broke numerous appointments to let theengineer into the flat I became desperate. I couldn't take any more time off work. It was eventuhours. On the day I took it over, I found ally done at 10 at night. The boiler blew the previous tenant had not moved her up three weeks ago and still hasn't things out. The flat was filthy and I had been mended properly. Nor do I have



12/YOUR MONEY

How to track down homes under the hammer



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lt's happening again. Soaring house prices are forcing many homebuyers to settle for less space, or to head for auctions in search for a bargain: Rachel Fosen warns against some of the services claiming to help them.

London barrister Stewart Room is trying to buy a house in north London. "House prices are rising more than people's because at the end of the day, you've got less to buy with." he

you want stays within the price band you can afford, there's little problem. "It's when it goes outside the band that you get the concern," Mr Room

On average, prices are now between 6 and 7 per cent higher than last year, according to Gary Marsh, head of corporate affairs at Halifax. "We expect that to continue next year," he usually get information about adds. But this national average houses up for auction free of London, where houses are up

between 15 and 20 per cent. Panic that they might be priced out of the market is driving many people to go downmarket, looking for bargain homes at auctions. But for many potential buyers, finding out just where the properties are going to be sold and when can be a headache. Auctions seem to be like buses: there may be none for weeks at a time and then several come along all at

To cater for this growing interest, new services listing repossessions going under the hammer are springing up as buyers prepare to save money by doing some of their own ren- £5,000.

ovation. Property pages are dotted with advertisements for services offering lists of repossessions and other properties up for auction, often claiming bar gains can be had.

The Property Network sends out via fax a list of houses and flats up for auction according to region. Some are repossessions. The list gives brief details of the property, date of auction, and a contact number for the estate agent handling viewing. The list is updated once a week.

The Fax Back Property In dex is another service which, by area, gives details and contact incomes are and that's a worry, numbers for cheaper properties that need doing up and are being sold through estate agents. Both of these services cost

As long as the type of home £1.50 per minute. The first service sent your reporter nine pages of details for the London region, costing about £12 in phone charges. The second service sent out three pages listing properties in Yorkshire, including an index sheet, and this cost £18 because it was

much slower. While services like theses save you some legwork, you can charge by contacting auctioneers, or high street estate agents directly.

And the Fax Back Property Index, while it was still trading under its old name of the Repossessed Properties Index, has twice been investigated by the telecom watchdog ICSTIS (the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services).

In March, complaints that it took over 20 minutes to receive five pages of information led to a fine of £2.500. In July it was investigated for, among other things, misleading advertising as not all properties on the list were repossessions. It was fined

Be prepared before you make that bid

tended was a few years ago. Two near-identical flats in the same block both of which I had viewed, were up for auction.

Except that one looked as if it had been redecorated by someone who had gulped down a bowl of illegal substances for breakfast. It had also been extensively vandalised.

The much better flat went for £60,000. The second, psychedelically decorated one came up. It finally sold for

Later, when I spoke to the buyer of the second flat, I discovered he had not even looked coupon on page 4.

The last property auction I at- at it before bidding. Nor had he discussed a loan with a lender.

Before you bid, carry out all property, but also sort out how you will pay for it. Take your time and do the research thoroughly. Choose a lender who can move swiftly: completion is usually 28 days from the auction date.

'The Independent' has just published a free 27-page Guide to Mortgages, sponsored by Barclays Mortgages. For your copy, call 0800 585691. Or fill in the

IN SEARCH OF A BARGAIN BASEMENT

Are repossessions a bargain, anyway? Duncan Moir, auctioneer at Allsop & Co, says: "The volume that goes out at an auction may make people think they are bargains. Part of the appeal is that you know exactly where you are. You are only bidding £500 more than the next person."

The downside is that you have to buy unconditionally, which means paying for your survey and local authority search beforehand. Prices at auction can even be higher than through an estate agent.

been empty for a while, or you may have to take a leasehold property with an absentee landlord.

Duncan Moir says that the best service listing properties up for auction is Faxwise. For £100 plus VAT, Faxwise gets all catalogues of property auctions sent to you for three months with guide prices where available, and on the night of the sale it sends out. the auction results. Auctioncers say that as much as 60 per cent of properties sold now go to private buyers. You can pick up cheap prop- Faxwise: 0171-720 5000; erties but they may have Allsop & Co: 0171-494 3686.

5/Vic and Bob: fightir for a laugh

4/Damon Albarn: up against



%/Peter Ha getting personal



Moron and

